

SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM CHANGES – FACT SHEET

KEY FACTS ON SASKATCHEWAN HOUSING CORPORATION'S SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM

- Social Housing = rent is calculated as a percentage of income.
- Saskatchewan Housing Corporation owns/operates approximately 14,700 social housing units across the province.
- Saskatchewan currently has the most social housing units per capita of all western provinces.

FIVE MAJOR CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM
<p>1. NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No eligibility criteria currently exist around income or asset levels.• New criteria will include maximum income and asset criteria• Changes will not apply to existing tenants
<p>2. PRIORITIZATION OF APPLICANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current prioritization of applicants puts the greatest emphasis on affordability• The new criteria adds things like the safety and condition of the household's existing dwelling, whether their current home is overcrowded, and consideration for those who are homeless or victims of domestic abuse.
<p>3. CHANGES TO THE RENT SCALE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently, rent is determined based on a complex Graduated Rent Scale that has some households paying different income levels for their rent than others.• Most tenants will now be charged rents at 30 per cent of adjusted household income, which is consistent with the CMHC National Affordability Standard ("adjusted" refers to the exclusion of benefits such as Federal and Provincial benefits for children, seniors or persons with disabilities such as Universal Child Care benefit or the Senior Income Plan)• This change will create more transparent rental rates and be fairer to both existing and prospective tenants.
<p>4. CHANGES TO THE MAXIMUM RENTAL RATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently, rental rates are capped at \$800 regardless of income level.• Nearly 800 households living in social housing units currently have their rent capped at \$800, despite having income levels that would otherwise put them at rents above the cap. This includes a minimum of 15 households with incomes over \$100,000 per year.• Removing the cap should incent these households to move to the private market and create more spaces for those with the greatest housing need.
<p>5. CHANGES TO THE MINIMUM RENTAL RATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently, minimum rent is \$100/month despite the fact the minimum shelter benefit from the Ministry of Social Services is \$314/month.• New tenants will pay a new minimum of \$314 and be encouraged to access the full benefits available to them.

***IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE LEAST WELL-OFF TENANTS IN SOCIAL HOUSING, NONE OF THESE CHANGES WILL APPLY TO EXISTING TENANTS PAYING UNDER \$314/MONTH.**