



Tackling the Housing Crisis for Women over Fifty

The Facts:

- ✦ The current shortage of affordable housing hits mid-life and older women especially hard because women
 - earn less during their generally shorter working lives
 - live longer than men and so tend to experience more health issues
 - have fewer and less generous retirement benefits
 - frequently interrupt their careers to care for children and elders
 - live alone more often at every age and stage
- ✦ The gap between incomes and market rents is widening.
- ✦ Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments continue to cut back their support for affordable housing.
- ✦ Income Supports for the elderly are ever more inadequate.
- ✦ Older women often face homelessness as their income drops and/or their health declines.

OWN Recommendations:

- ✦ **Retrofit older housing stock (large houses, apartments and hotels) to enlarge the housing stock.**
- ✦ **Expand rent support and housing allowance programs.**
- ✦ **Secure increased government backing for Non-profit and Co-op housing groups.**
- ✦ **Devise incentives for the inclusion of affordable units in new private-sector condominium developments.**
- ✦ **Reform Federal income support service programs.**
- ✦ **Support housing initiatives geared to local conditions, specific population groups and special needs.**
- ✦ **Site seniors housing projects close to transportation and other services.**
- ✦ **Encourage the development of alternative housing models and support Age Friendly Cities.**

What *You* Can Do and How to Do It:

- ✦ **Join OWN's Affordable Housing e-list and visit our website (<http://olderwomensnetwork.org>) to keep informed about what actions we are planning.**
- ✦ **Volunteer your ideas and your time to the OWN Housing Committee.**

To contact us, just send an email to info@olderwomensnetwork.org with *Housing* on the subject line.

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