

## Advocates want housing on agenda

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An anti-homelessness group wants to make affordable housing an election issue as it anticipates its revenue will plummet under a new federal-provincial funding agreement.

The Alliance to End Homelessness (ATEH) fears Ottawa's allocation of funds under the Affordable Housing Plan will drop to \$8.4 million from \$15 million per year on average because of a new Investment in Affordable Housing agreement.

To put the decrease in perspective, the newly opened Cornerstone's Housing for Women on Booth Street alone was a \$10-million investment.

Monday, ATEH released the results of a survey of provincial election candidates' positions on housing policy.

"This is an ongoing concern for us," said Sue Garvey, ATEH executive director, adding Ottawa needs 1,000 new affordable-housing units over the next 10 years to reduce homelessness.

Instead of rating each party's answers, ATEH encourages voters to visit [endhomelessnessottawa.ca](http://endhomelessnessottawa.ca) to draw their own conclusions on where parties stand on homelessness and affordable housing. The NDP, Liberal party, and Green party candidates in six ridings across the region submitted answers.

ATEH said the Progressive Conservatives refused to answer the questionnaire because they only answer questions relating to their platform during elections. The PCs sent ATEH a letter outlining their platform and offered to arrange a meeting after the election.

"The (PC) platform doesn't include housing as something that they're basing this campaign on, so the voters can call their MPPs directly if that's important to them," said Dan Sabourin, ATEH vice-chair.



JOE LOFARO/METRO

Dan Sabourin, ATEH vice-chair, holds the results of a local candidates' questionnaire on affordable housing with executive director Sue Garvey Monday.

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