

FIRSTNAME SURNAME, Member of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Building
450 Broadway,
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1S4

[Date]

Dear **Mr./Mrs./Ms. Surname**,

On the night of October 25, 2015, there were at least 1,400 people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg. The city currently has 8 shelters with a total of 599 beds. Clearly not all of our brothers and sisters are able to find a safe place to call home.

The cost of homelessness is far too high. I believe that it is important to note that according to the CBC, the annual average cost of homelessness in Winnipeg is \$45,500 per person. That's a whopping \$63,700,000 a year to pay for things like social workers, extra police resources, court cases, shelter beds and medical care.

However, for those in assisted housing, the highest-need users cost \$22,257, while the cost for those with more moderate needs is \$14,177 per year, according to the Academy for Health Care Science research. This cuts the costs nearly in half.

Of course, this is also not just about money. How can I sleep as a Winnipegger, a Manitoban, or a Canadian, knowing that someone is out there, possibly freezing to death simply because they lack the money to pay for a place to live? I cannot justify such suffering in a place so rich.

I am writing to ask you to act on behalf of Manitoba's vulnerable and under-loved. I would support and vote for a leader who could bring about the following recommendations from Winnipeg's Right to Housing Coalition. These include:

- 1) Preserve Manitoba's stock of social and affordable housing.
- 2) Build 300 social and 300 affordable housing units annually.
- 3) Enhance the Rent Assist benefit to make rental housing affordable for low-income Manitobans.

Please act today to ensure that everyone in Manitoba who wants a home can have one.

Sincerely,

[Your name]
123 Your Street,
Winnipeg MB R3B 2Z6