

National Housing Day

November 22

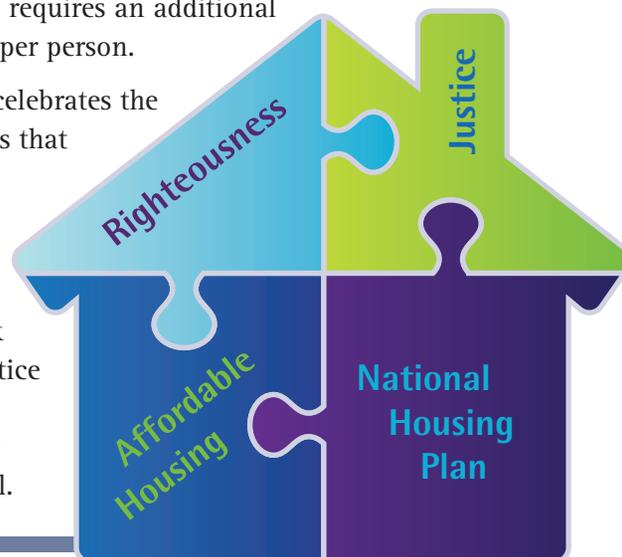
"I will make justice the measuring line
and righteousness the plumb line"

Isaiah 28:17

Measuring lines and plumb lines are building references and getting them right in construction is essential for building safe, secure homes. Isaiah knows this. Justice and righteousness, he says, are God's special building tools for God's Kingdom. Without them, the house will not provide adequate shelter and fall apart. When people have no home or live in precarious, unsafe or unaffordable housing, God's justice and righteousness are needed to build safe secure homes and communities.

One in five Canadian households can't afford the cost of a home. Every night in Canada, 35,000 people have no home to go to. A national housing strategy and increasing money designated for affordable housing are the tools of justice and righteousness for these vulnerable people. Home is essential for every person to stay safe, healthy and to flourish in his or her community. Ending chronic homelessness and creating more affordable housing can be done: Our best estimate requires an additional investment of \$2/week per person.

National Housing Day celebrates the people and communities that help create homes for vulnerable individuals and families. It is also a reminder that we have more to do. Thank God for the tools of justice and righteousness! We need them to build safe affordable homes for all.



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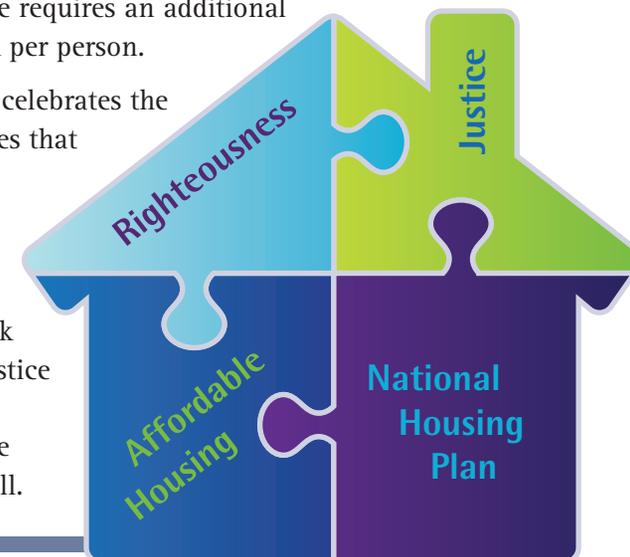
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A National Housing Day Prayer

One: God of justice, too many have inadequate housing or no housing at all.

All: Yet we accept this reality as if there is no solution.

One: God of righteousness, you want us to speak up and take action where there is injustice.

All: Yet we are immobilized and don't know where to start.

One: God of love, you care for everyone and want us to do likewise.

All: Yet we are afraid of the stranger and those who are different from us.

One: Give us the vision and energy to make a difference.

All: And let us not stop until everyone has a place to call home.

Deb Schlichter is an elder at Knox PC in Waterloo, ON and the Director of Housing for the Region of Waterloo. Deb convenes the Justice Ministries Advisory Committee.

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