



Our Fellow Albertans,

It is election season in Alberta, and political hopefuls from all parties are listening hard for what people care about. Unfortunately, housing and homelessness tend to be one of those issues they assume everybody cares about, but not enough for them to commit significant time, energy, or money to actually address.

But this really does matter to all of us! Homelessness numbers are on the rise across the province. The cost of living is forcing more and more families to choose between rent and food. People with mental health challenges, disabilities and addictions are still being asked to walk the streets for sixteen hours a day and sleep on mats on the floor! Things seem to be getting worse, not better!

Clearly, without real investments in well-considered long-term solutions, we will continue to put out fires every year with reactive emergency measures. These measures are well-known to be both ineffective and expensive. Currently, we spend over \$100,000 per year just to keep someone living on the streets *alive*! A solid action plan would be cheaper and much more effective.

Please join us

On Friday afternoon, March 24 at 2 pm, we need at least 100,000 Albertans to join in rallies taking place all across the province. So please share this information and invitation! Share it with your faith community, family, friends and neighbours. Ask your school community to let children participate. Invite your neighbours, your boss, and your co-workers! Please join a rally in your area. We must stand together in strength, to be heard!

Alberta cares

So much is possible if we work together! **It is time** for Alberta to build a wise, well-resourced, and well-constructed long-term plan to address housing and homelessness challenges in Alberta.

To see the details for rallies in your local area, and to consider the key initiatives that we see as critical for success, please visit www.interfaithhousing.ca. **If you are willing to help coordinate a rally** in your area, please contact Pastor Pam Richards at pamelar@telus.net.

What you can do

Help spread the word! Be informed, and sign the petition found on our website - www.interfaithhousing.ca. Talk about the issues and rallies on social media with our hashtag: #Albertacares2023.

Edmonton Interfaith Housing Society

Pastor Kathleen Schmitke (Lutheran), Co-Chair

Sofia Yaqub (Muslim), Co-Chair