

**Hon. Rich Coleman,
Minister Responsible for Housing,
PO Box 9052,
STN PROV GOVT,
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2**

Dear Minister Coleman:

I'm writing to ask for your help in protecting the most vulnerable members of BC's housing co-op communities.

As you know, federal rent assistance for thousands of low-income co-op members is ending in the next ten years. This will affect 1,500 co-op households by 2017. And by 2020, almost 3,000 households will have lost the assistance that now makes their homes affordable.

To date there is no provincial program to replace this disappearing federal assistance, even though housing is now a provincial responsibility.

The people in BC's co-op communities who now rely on federal rent subsidies are seniors, people with disabilities, new Canadians and single parents. Without your help they will be at risk of losing their homes when their federal subsidies end.

I urge you to act quickly to implement the rent supplement program suggested by the Co-operative Housing Federation of British Columbia.

Please reassure those who can least afford to lose their homes in Canada's most expensive housing market that your government will help them remain in the co-op communities they call home.

Yours truly,