



**Canadian**  
Home Builders'  
Association

**SASKATCHEWAN**

#11, 3012 Louise Street  
Saskatoon, SK Canada S7J 3L8  
Phone: 306.955.5188  
Fax: 306.373.3735  
Toll Free: 1.888.955.5188  
info@chbasaskatchewan.com  
www.chbasaskatchewan.com

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# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HOUSING TASK FORCE REPORT RELEASED** *...Association supports recommendations to improve housing affordability.*

**Saskatoon** — Saskatchewan is experiencing a growing demand for all housing types and especially appropriate housing for low income families, first time buyers and seniors on fixed incomes, however, the growth in need is not being matched by the growth in available housing in these areas. There are many factors including taxation, government policies and regulations that have the effect of making home ownership and access to quality rental property an elusive goal for many.

The Task Force on Housing Affordability submitted their report to Social Services Minister Donna Harpauer today. The report outlined several recommendations about how to improve the affordability of housing within the province. The Canadian Home Builders' Association — Saskatchewan held consultations with the Task Force this past month to express the residential construction industry's concerns with regards to the supply of affordable housing.

“Our industry believes that we must work to fill the need for more appropriate housing and reform policy and regulations that currently threaten housing affordability,” says Alan Thomarat, Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Home Builders' Association — Saskatchewan. “Governments have the power to influence housing affordability and they have the ability to reform tax policies and reassess and rationalize the regulations that currently hamper the development of quality affordable housing.”

*Building Homes, Building Communities, Building the Province*



Our Association supports the Task Force’s recommendations and agrees that the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation must be strengthened to ensure that it better represents and addresses the affordable housing needs in all communities in Saskatchewan.

After discussions with housing stakeholders, Ted Merriman and Bob Pringle concluded that the frequency of comments regarding:

*“poor communications and lack of engagement between the provincial government and local municipal governments, housing authorities and community-based organizations...led the Task Force to believe that, in addition to increasing the supply of affordable housing and providing better assistance to those most in need, Saskatchewan needs a new and proactive model for planning and delivering affordable housing support to local communities, community organizations and individuals in need (Task Force on Housing Affordability, Message from the Chairs, 2008).”*

The Association believes that all three levels of government must work together to clarify the roles and responsibilities of public-private partnerships so that all can work together to produce the best results in affordable housing for residents of Saskatchewan.

“Implementing the Housing Task Force’s recommendations will help alleviate market pressures and increase investment in our growing province. By restructuring best practices to correct past mistakes we can envision a stability in the marketplace which does not create victims of prosperity and instead offers our young people, seniors and those most in need security in a quality home and a sense of belonging in all communities in Saskatchewan,” says Thomarat.

Saskatchewan’s economy is thriving and, as the voice of the residential construction industry, The Canadian Home Builders’ Association — Saskatchewan is committed to an agenda that provides quality, affordability and choice in housing to all people in all communities in Saskatchewan.

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***For more information, please contact:***  
**Alan H.J. Thomarat, Executive Vice-President**  
**Canadian Home Builders’ Association — Saskatchewan**  
**Phone: (306) 955-5188**