

From: [Rucha Patel](#)
Subject: Concerned citizen of Hamilton Friday,
Date: December 4, 2020 2:23:02 PM

Since Monday November 23rd, Hamilton community organizers have been peacefully protesting in front of the Hamilton City Hall to call for urgent investment in public social housing through the reallocation of the police funding. I stand in solidarity with the protesters who are deeply troubled by the prospects of people facing these upcoming winter months without adequate and dignified shelter. Their demands for immediate action on a multilevel government emergency action plan are completely in line with the scale of this public health crisis of homelessness.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned by the tactics used by the Hamilton Police Service against the participants in this protest. This type of intimidation is an attempt to break up this peaceful demonstration. I stand in solidarity with my community and will fight alongside them for immediate action on housing to be taken by all levels of government.

- Canada's current housing crisis is rooted in the Liberal's cancellation of the National Affordable Housing program in 1993 and subsequent provincial downloading of social housing onto grossly underfunded municipalities in Ontario.
- It is estimated that 322,000 units of affordable housing were lost between 2011-2016, and this current National Housing Strategy is only providing 150,000 units over the next 10 years with most investments coming in 2014.

Despite declaring housing as a human right back in 2017, the Prime Minister has failed to provide meaningful action to address the housing crisis in our country. As part of the Liberal's National Housing Strategy, the National Housing Co-Investment Fund was established to invest in the construction of 6,500 new housing units by the end of March 2020. But, as of February 2020, the Liberal government had only finalized agreement for a mere 736 units. With the Covid-19 pandemic intensifying the homelessness crisis, this failure to meet even modest objectives will lead to further tent encampments across our country.

In supporting the demands of the residents at City Hall, urgent action is needed now. Municipalities are wholly underfunded to respond to the scale and scope of this national housing crisis alone. Provincial and Federal governments must act immediately. We need supportive housing. We need direct federal subsidies in purpose built social housing. We need to maintain the existing affordable housing stock. We need aggressive measure to secure additional assets to creat new affordable housing stock. And most importantly, we need national leadership to stop the financialization of housing and homelessness caused by it.

I stand in solidarity with the demands of the protestors at City Hall and their demands:

We call on the City of Hamilton to defund the Hamilton police.

We call on the City of Hamilton to invest the tax dollars that would have otherwise gone to the police towards initiatives fighting against food insecurity, racism and towards more affordable housing & other social services.

We call on the City of Hamilton to ensure that HPS are not ticketing houseless people for

existing in public.

We call on the HPS to release accounting on taxes used to surveil & police Black, Indigenous, & racialized communities.

We demand that the HPS halt purchases of weapons, high tech surveillance equipment, & cease surveilling communities.

We demand HPS cease ticketing and surveilling of homeless & disabled people.

We demand that the HPS stop targeting activists & communities pushing back against white supremacists.

--

Rucha Patel {roo-cha} [she/they]
Mystick of Every Day Magick