

From: [CBDOC Canada](#)
To: [Executive Committee](#)
Cc: [Kaviri Ali](#); [Jan Amito](#); tonnymuzira111@gmail.com
Subject: [External Sender] EX26.13 — Cuts to Federal and Provincial Support for Housing
Date: September 30, 2025 1:51:33 PM

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Executive Committee,

The Centre for Black Development Options Canada (CBDOC) is writing to express our deep concern over the proposed cuts to federal and provincial support for housing—specifically the reductions to the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) and the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB). These cuts threaten the stability and safety of already vulnerable refugee populations, particularly Black migrants and refugees in Toronto and across Ontario.

CBDOC is a Black-led initiative committed to working directly with Black migrants and refugees through research, policy engagement, advocacy training, and public education. Through our work, we have seen the critical role that programs like IHAP and COHB play in preventing homelessness, enabling access to temporary and long-term housing, and helping newcomers begin their settlement journey with dignity.

In 2023, during the height of the refugee housing crisis, the Trudeau government publicly committed to increased funding and a renewed focus on supporting municipalities and service providers responding to the surge in asylum seekers. These commitments raised hopes but were not fully realized. To date, many of the promised resources have not reached local governments or frontline agencies, leaving cities like Toronto to bear disproportionate responsibility without adequate support.

The impacts of this shortfall (107 Million dollars) have been profound. Black refugee claimants, many of whom arrive with no existing social support networks are disproportionately affected by shelter overflow, long waitlists, and racialized barriers in the housing system. Several of our members have reported sleeping in churches, transit shelters, or unsafe temporary accommodations for weeks at a time due to the unavailability of suitable housing options.

These policy decisions are not abstract; they are a matter of human dignity and survival. Defunding programs like IHAP and COHB undermines not only Toronto's ability to respond to housing needs but also Canada's international obligations and stated values on refugee protection and racial equity.

We urge the Executive Committee to:

- **Publicly oppose the federal funding cuts** and call on the federal government to honour its 2023 commitments to municipalities facing refugee housing pressures.
- **Advocate for sustained, long-term investment** in refugee housing supports, particularly for Black and racialized communities.
- **Work with Black-led organizations** like CBDOC to develop equitable housing solutions that reflect the lived realities of racialized refugee claimants.

Toronto cannot shoulder the refugee housing crisis alone and Black refugees must not

continue to be the invisible casualties of political indecision.

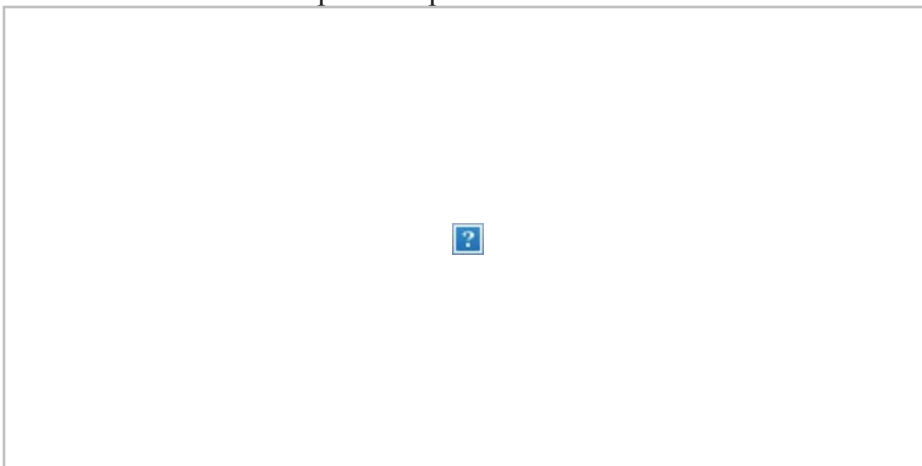
Sincerely,

Tonny Muzira

Co-Founder & Director Advocacy and Partnerships

Centre for Black Development Options Canada (CBDOC)

Centre for Black Development Options –Canada - CBDOC



Website: <https://cb-doc.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzmmn4tk4ac>

Address: 666 Ontario Street

Toronto, ON, Canada

TEL: +1- (437) 258- 9496

Toronto, ON – Canada