

# This is only the beginning



Honourable Iris Evans  
Minister, Alberta Municipal Affairs

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It's hard to imagine that just last June we and more than 500 other stakeholders met in Edmonton for the Housing Symposium. Through your hard work and contributions, the symposium was a great success. We are now releasing to you a summary report.

It was a mammoth undertaking to pull together and summarize all the ideas you and other attendees suggested, but a tremendous effort from everyone was made to include all the issues and suggestions submitted—including those from *Post-it* notes in the hallway!

We heard from seniors who wanted better support services; low-income groups who identified lack of community support as an issue; the modest income group wanting better development regulations; and the special needs group who stressed the need for better coordination and cooperation within government.

The goal of the symposium was to share the most current information about Alberta's housing situation, encourage partnerships and develop ideas for community-based social and affordable housing initiatives. My ministry is using your ideas to develop Alberta Municipal Affairs 1999 Business Plan. As you can see by reading this report, we have done our best to summarize the thoughts and suggestions of all participants, while not filtering out individual ideas.

Working with everyone on this has been truly rewarding and I appreciate your effort in tackling the challenge of creating affordable housing options for all Albertans. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

**Alberta**  
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Iris S. Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Minister, Alberta Municipal Affairs