



Frequently Asked Questions about M-147

1. What will motion M-147 do?

The National Housing Strategy (NHS) gave us all hope that this government is willing to tackle homelessness. After broad consultation with a number of involved community members and national organizations, I am presenting M-147 as the best step forward to end and prevent homelessness in Canada. This motion will:

- give the federal government the mandate and the tools to develop a plan to end and prevent homelessness in Canada,
- create a special committee to bring together MPs from all parties to hear from experts and stakeholders across Canada about strategies that have been proven effective,
- make ending homelessness in Canada the goal (we have the resources- all we need is a plan and the political will to make it happen), and,
- put proper mechanisms in place to measure progress and ensure our investments are having the greatest possible impact.

2. Where did this idea come from? What was the inspiration?

When I worked as CEO of the United Way of Saskatoon & Area, we took on the challenge of working to end homelessness in our community and I saw firsthand the value that a plan brought to our efforts. My experience taught me that:

- it is very challenging to foster an all-hands-on-deck approach that brings together governments, businesses, community groups and front-line workers,
- success can only be achieved when roles are clearly defined, and
- to end homelessness necessitates addressing its root causes and focussing on prevention.

3. How does M-147 differ from the government's NHS?

- M-147 can work in tandem with the NHS to focus parliamentarians on one of the major issues of our time.
- Current NHS targets aim to reduce chronic homelessness by 50% over the next 10 years; M-147 proposes that we create a plan to end and prevent homelessness altogether.

M-147 is an opportunity for all of us to roll up our sleeves, to work in partnership with governments and communities, and to finally create the road map to ending homelessness.



4. Will this plan replace community plans? Will it direct communities to adopt particular plans?

- Communities are already doing the work and bringing people together to end homelessness, and I want the federal government to follow their lead. I want to have that same kind of razor focus at the federal level.
- The special committee will hear from communities to learn from their successes and develop best practices.
- After the consultations have concluded, the special committee will determine how the federal government can best carry out its own response to the homelessness crisis.

5. What will it cost to end homelessness in Canada?

- The NHS commits \$2.2 billion to reduce homelessness by 50% over the next 10 years. M-147 will take off the blinders so we can see the full scope of the problem and the value we are getting from our investments.
- The special committee will a) set out the road map for ending and preventing homelessness in Canada and b) create mechanisms for measuring the effectiveness of the plan to ensure we see returns for every dollar spent.

6. Why would the Liberal government follow the lead of a NDP MP?

- Homelessness is not a partisan issue. Canadians across this country are dying because they do not have a safe place to call home or access to the supports they need.
- I've had conversations with people from both sides of the House and I'm getting very good feedback. There is a consensus that we need to be together on this.
- Communities across this country are represented by all political stripes, and they have plans to end homelessness and they are making a difference.

7. What is the timeline for the motion?

- The second hour of debate is scheduled for early February, 2018, with the vote occurring 3 days after that date.
- If passed, the motion requires members to be assigned to the committee within one week and they will present a plan to parliament 12 months later.

To support M-147, visit

<http://sheribenson.ndp.ca/we-need-a-plan-to-end-homelessness-in-canada>

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