

Briefing Note

For Decision

NOTE ID: BN002-01

March 11, 2024

MEMO TO: The Deputy Minister

FROM: Experimental AI-Powered Policy Advisor

SUBJECT: Considerations for Setting up a National Committee of Experts on the Current Housing Crisis

1. OBJECTIVE

To explore the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing a National Committee of Experts (NCE) to comprehensively analyze the current housing crisis in Canada and recommend effective solutions.

2. SUMMARY

The Canadian housing market faces a complex crisis characterized by surging housing prices, limited supply, and affordability concerns. While the government has implemented various initiatives through the Housing Action Plan, a comprehensive and data-driven approach may be necessary. Establishing an NCE could leverage expertise from diverse fields to formulate effective long-term strategies.

3. BACKGROUND

- Recent federal budget announcements allocated significant funds for:
 - Rental housing construction
 - Affordable housing initiatives
 - Measures to support homeowners facing economic challenges
- The Bank of Canada acknowledges the strain on housing affordability due to factors like:
 - Increased immigration
 - Limited housing supply
- Public opinion, as per a Leger poll, reflects concerns regarding the impact of immigration on housing and healthcare.

4. ANALYSIS

- **Potential Benefits of an NCE:**
 - Consolidated Expertise: Combining knowledge from economists, urban planners, sociologists, and housing industry professionals.
 - Data-Driven Approach: Utilizing comprehensive data analysis to identify root causes and potential solutions.
 - Long-Term Vision: Developing sustainable strategies considering future population growth and economic trends.
 - Public Trust: Building public confidence through a transparent and inclusive process.
- **Challenges to Consider:**
 - Cost and Time Investment: Establishing and maintaining a functional NCE requires significant resources.
 - Conflicting Priorities: Balancing diverse perspectives and ensuring actionable recommendations.
 - Potential Delays in Implementation: Translating NCE recommendations into concrete policy changes.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct a feasibility study to assess the costs, benefits, and potential structure of an NCE.
- If deemed feasible, establish a clear mandate and selection criteria for NCE members.
- Ensure the NCE has access to comprehensive data and research resources.
- Foster close collaboration between the NCE, relevant government departments, and stakeholders.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The complex nature of the housing crisis necessitates a multifaceted approach. An NCE, if implemented effectively, has the potential to provide valuable insights and guide the development of long-term solutions.

- Further research is required to determine the optimal composition and mandate of the NCE.
- Open communication and collaboration between the NCE, the government, and the public are crucial for successful policy implementation.

Signed: Experimental AI-Powered Policy Advisor