

April 24, 2002

Mr. Cameron Gray  
Manager, Housing Centre  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5X 1V4

Dear Cameron:

**Re: Tri-Country Conference 2002**

As you know, the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association has agreed to sponsor the 2002 bi-annual Tri-Country Conference (UK, USA, and Canada). It will be held in Vancouver, September 11-13, 2002. Plans are underway to make this event an important and strategic session for all three partners countries.

Following the Tri-Country Conference of 2000, held in Manchester, England, the Steering Committee for the conference decided to choose as the theme for the upcoming conference, *a look at housing policy in the future*. The theme recognizes that all three countries, and indeed many others, are facing fundamental institutional change to the way they develop, finance and manage affordable housing. Changing income support policy will have major reverberations on how housing policy is considered.

We will review the policies of each of the countries over the past 12 years when these conferences started. Is it more of the same or have we each gone through a fundamental shift? What has shifted? Are the policies being used now or under consideration more sustainable - politically and fiscally than those of the past? There has been a widespread trend away from direct public supply and in some instances towards addressing affordability more directly through person or household based subsidies. Is the pendulum swinging back to traditional approaches as the consequences of inaction and retrenchment have become more evident or can we expect a fundamental shift in the way governments intervene in the provision of affordable housing?

In order to develop the thematic idea in a way which will be more universally understandable, case studies will be undertaken in each country demonstrating some innovative projects that have moved away from conventional methods of delivery and management. The case studies will be balanced with presentations by leading policy professionals on the evolving policy directions in all three countries. Tours will provide a view of innovative projects in Vancouver.

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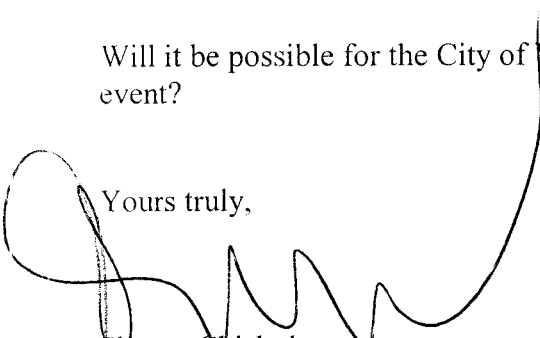


Canadian Housing and Renewal Association / Association canadienne d'habitation et de rénovation urbaine		
130 Slater Street Suite 408	Tel : (613) 594-3007	130, rue Slater, bureau 408
Ottawa, Canada K1P 6E2	Fax: (613) 594-9596	Ottawa, Canada K1P 6E2
	Email: <a href="mailto:info@chra-achru.ca">info@chra-achru.ca</a>	
	Web: <a href="http://www.info@chra-achru.ca">http://www.info@chra-achru.ca</a>	

We are expecting that we will get support from a number of sources for this conference including Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Province of British Columbia and the City of Toronto. The City of Toronto contribution will be \$3,000. In addition, Toronto will sponsor a delegate to attend the conference.

Will it be possible for the City of Vancouver to make a contribution of \$5,000 to this important event?

Yours truly,



Sharon Chisholm  
Executive Director