Petition to the Government of Canada

Whereas:

- Most seniors live off fixed income payments from the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP), Old Age Security (OAS) and Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), which have not kept pace with the rapid rise in housing costs.
- Seniors' housing has been increasingly privatized and consolidated by financialized owners such as publicly traded companies, real estate investment trusts, and private equity firms. As of 2020, a third of seniors housing in Canada was owned by financialized landlords, including 42% of retirement units and 22% of long-term care beds.
- Homes owned by private equity firms suffer from negligent services and an especially poor quality of care, shown
 most clearly in the devastation wrought by COVID-19 in the long-term care sector.
- Housing precarity and homelessness take a significant toll on the physical and mental health of seniors, often forcing them into unsafe living situations or to go without heat or electricity.
- Seniors who own their homes often still receive insufficient incomes and lack available housing options should they decide to sell their homes.
- In rural and remote areas, seniors are often forced to move away from their families and support systems to larger cities in which long term care homes are available.

Therefore, we the undersigned, seniors and other Citizens of Canada, call upon on the Government of Canada to put an end to ownership of seniors' housing by private financial firms, and invest in public, non-market seniors' housing in both urban and rural areas.

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