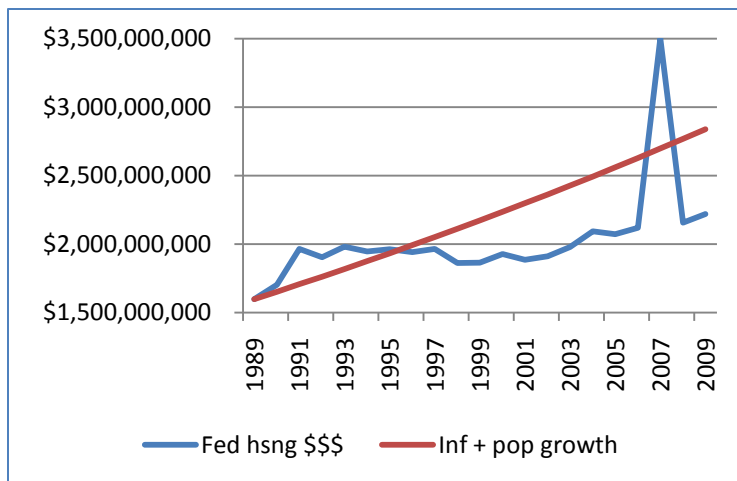


Wellesley Institute backgrounder: Affordable housing

11 August 2009

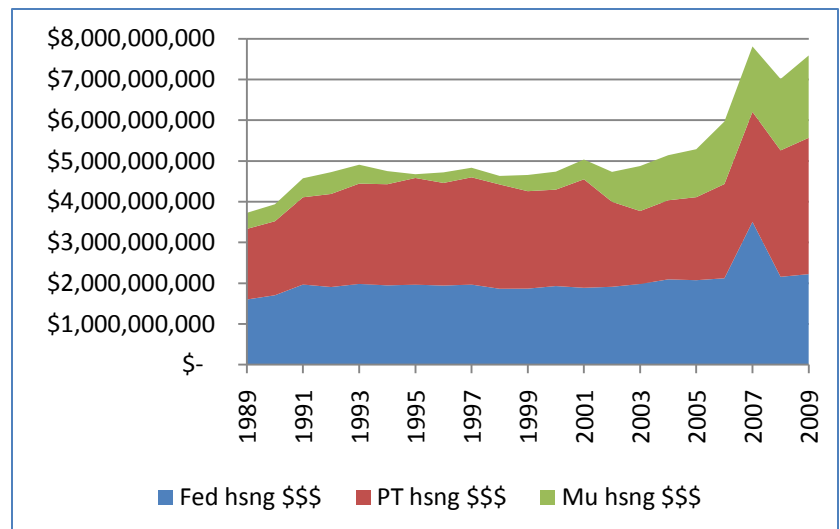


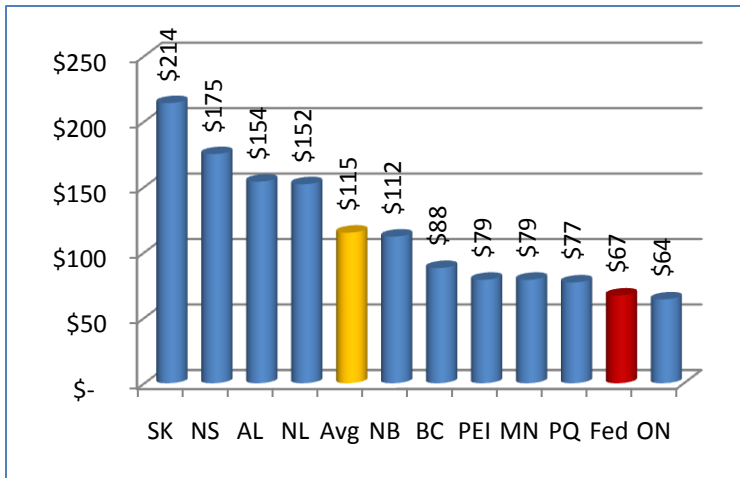
Lagging federal investments:

Federal affordable housing investments over the past two decades (blue line) have been mostly stagnant – and have fallen below inflation and population increases (red line). The gap between actual federal spending in 2009 and the amount required to match 1989 dollars (adjusted for inflation / population growth) has grown to \$618.5 million. (Source: Statistics Canada)

Shifting housing funding responsibilities to municipalities:

Combined federal, provincial, territorial and municipal housing investments have risen over the past two decades. Municipal housing spending is up sharply – almost equal to the federal dollars. Provincial / territorial spending is also up. Federal spending has been mostly stagnant. (Source: Statistics Canada)



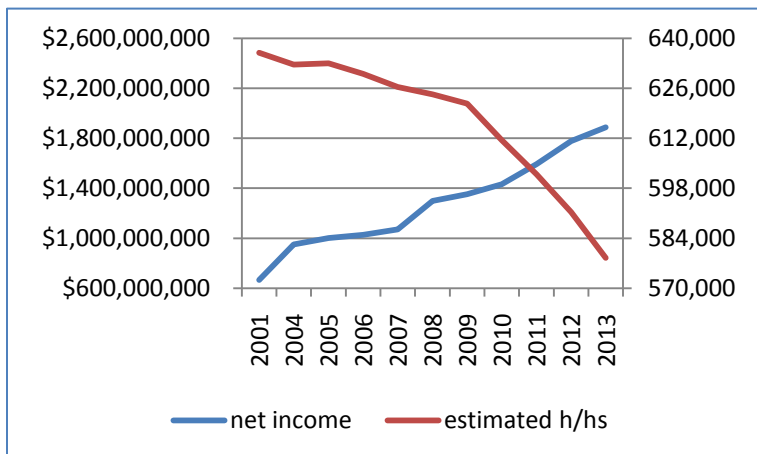
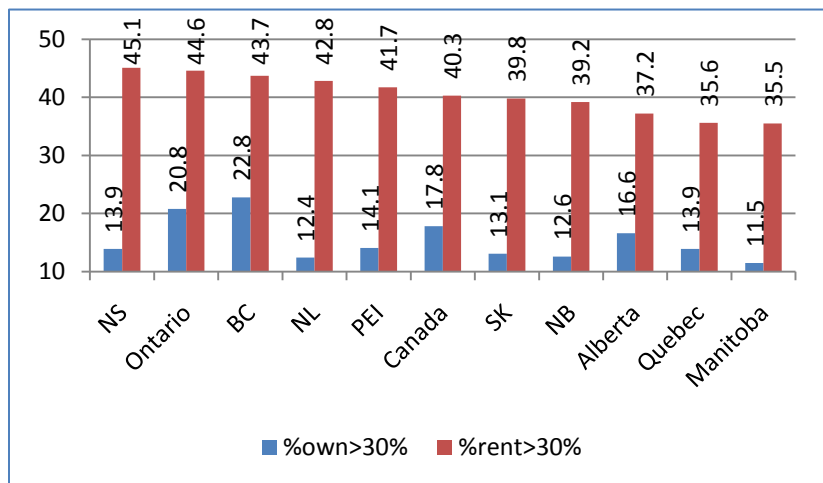


Federal per capita spending close to bottom: At \$64 per capita, the federal government spends a little more than half the average among provinces and territories; and less than one-third of the amount invested by Saskatchewan. The federal government is second from the bottom in per capita housing investments.

(Source: Statistics Canada)

Nation-wide affordable housing crisis: More than four of ten renter households, and almost two of ten owner households, are paying more than 30% of income on housing – the commonly accepted threshold for being precariously housed. That adds up to 1.584 million renter households, and 1.514 million owner households.

(Source: Statistics Canada)



Rising surplus at federal housing agency, shrinking number getting housing help:

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation projects that its surplus in 2013 will be three times higher than 2001, while the number of households being assisted under federal programs will shrink by almost 10%.

(Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation)

For more information:

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