



Low-Income Energy Network

RESOLUTION National Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency Program (NAHEEP)

WHEREAS, Canada faces the national challenge of a growing affordable housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, both the Low-Income Energy Network (LIEN) and the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) believe that the health and well-being of Canada's communities depend on the provision of appropriate, secure, decent, sustainable and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the retention and improvement of Canada's existing affordable housing stock must be a key element of a national housing strategy; and

WHEREAS, Canada also faces the national challenge of implementing the Kyoto Protocol to address global climate change; and

WHEREAS, energy-efficient housing upgrades provide an important, cost-effective opportunity to improve affordability and sustainability by lowering energy costs – freeing wasted energy spending to address core housing needs, improving home health and indoor air quality, and reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Green Communities Association (GCA) is a national network of non-profit community-based organizations that have delivered 150,000 home energy performance assessments in all regions of Canada, including low-income and social housing retrofit programs; and

WHEREAS, the GCA have demonstrated that households can reduce energy consumption an average 34 per cent/year and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 3.9 tonnes/year by undertaking energy efficient upgrades – results which led the Government of Canada to announce a \$73 million national Retrofit Incentive Program for homeowners in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Retrofit Incentive Program does not include Canada's rental housing sector, where 67.5 per cent of Canada's housing affordability problem exists; and

WHEREAS, the GCA and CHRA are calling for a national affordable housing energy efficiency program to help low income Canadians cut energy bills, housing costs and pollution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that LIEN supports the call for a national affordable housing energy efficiency strategy, and agrees to participate with the GCA to engage stakeholders in developing this strategy.

On behalf of the LIEN Interim Steering Committee:

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LIEN's future Web: www.lowincomeenergy.ca