

# The Right to Housing in Canada

UPR Info Pre-Sessions  
Canada's Fourth Universal Periodic Review

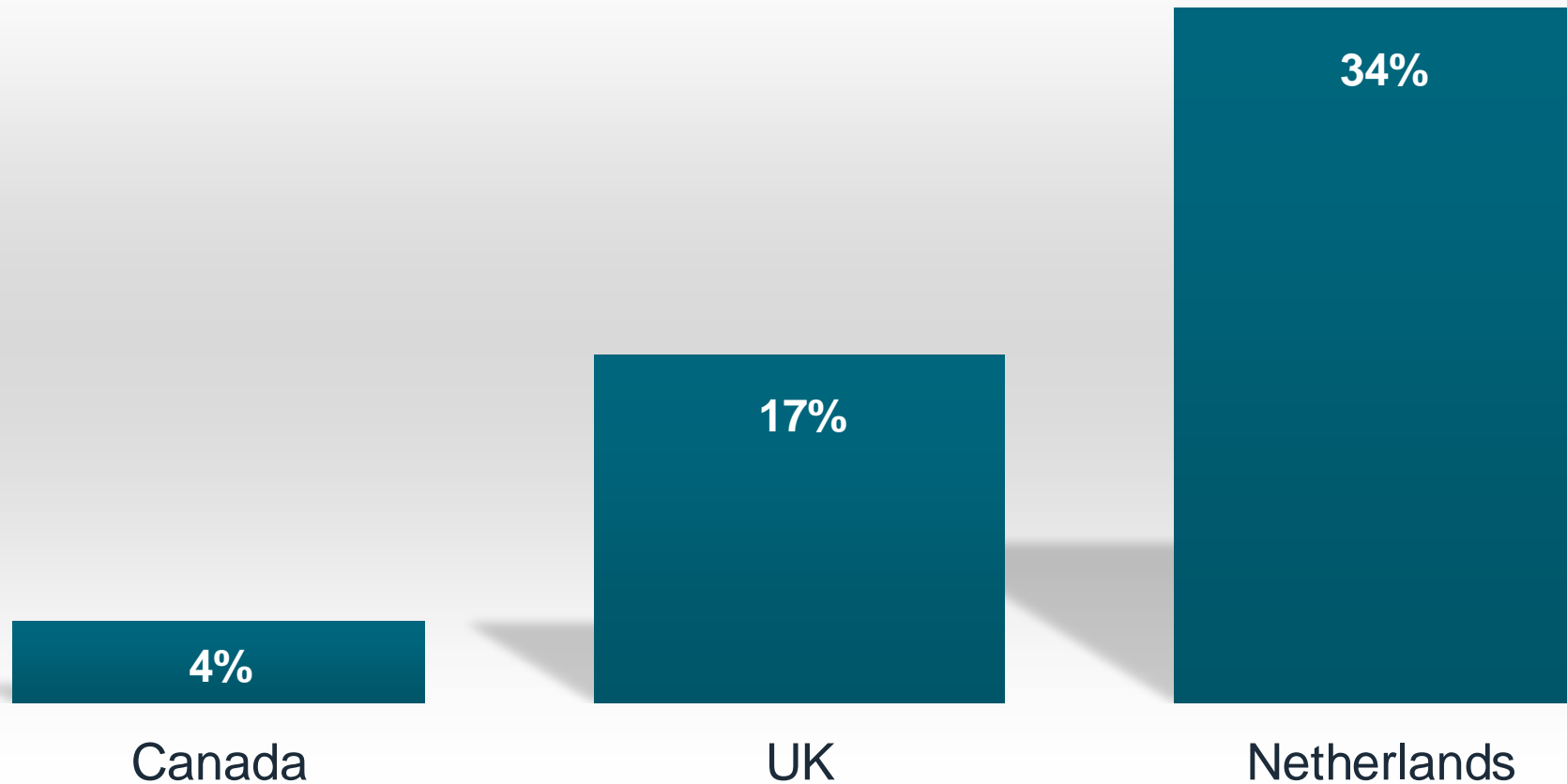
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# Issue 1: Inadequate government programs to address homelessness, housing precarity and housing affordability

- The right to housing is recognized but not implemented.
- Approx. 235,000 people experience homelessness every year.
- Indigenous peoples are 5% of population but 31% of people who go to emergency shelters.
- Rental housing affordability is at crisis levels. One in three renters are paying unaffordable rents.
- 83% of people who receive welfare income live in deep poverty.

# Percentage of social housing stock: Canada, UK, Netherlands



# Recommendation

1

Revise the National Housing Strategy to comply with the right to housing under the National Housing Strategy Act, and ensure that its programs fund housing that is adequate and affordable to those most in need, and prioritize disadvantaged groups and Indigenous Peoples.

# Recommendation

2

Implement clear goals and timelines for eliminating all forms of homelessness by 2030 with rigorous monitoring and compliance in conformity with Canada's Sustainable Development Goals and the National Housing Strategy Act.

## Issue 2: Inadequate regulation of the rental market

- 20% increase in average rents in the last two years.
- 7% of households reported experiencing eviction (informal evictions go unreported).
- Rent regulation varies in provinces and territories, and tenants are not protected from excessive rent increases.
- 20% - 30% of rental housing is held by unregulated financial firms.

# Recommendation

3

Implement and strengthen rent regulation in every province and territory and address the widespread financialization of housing.

## Issue 3: Justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights

- Inadequate legal protections for tenants facing eviction proceedings.
- Lack of access to legal services or representation.
- Eviction not treated as a last resort.
- Principles of the right to housing not applied.
- No requirement to provide alternate housing for those who are evicted.



# Recommendation

4

Ensure that all provinces and territories strengthen their security of tenure legislation, including ensuring that eviction is treated as a last resort.

# Thank you

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