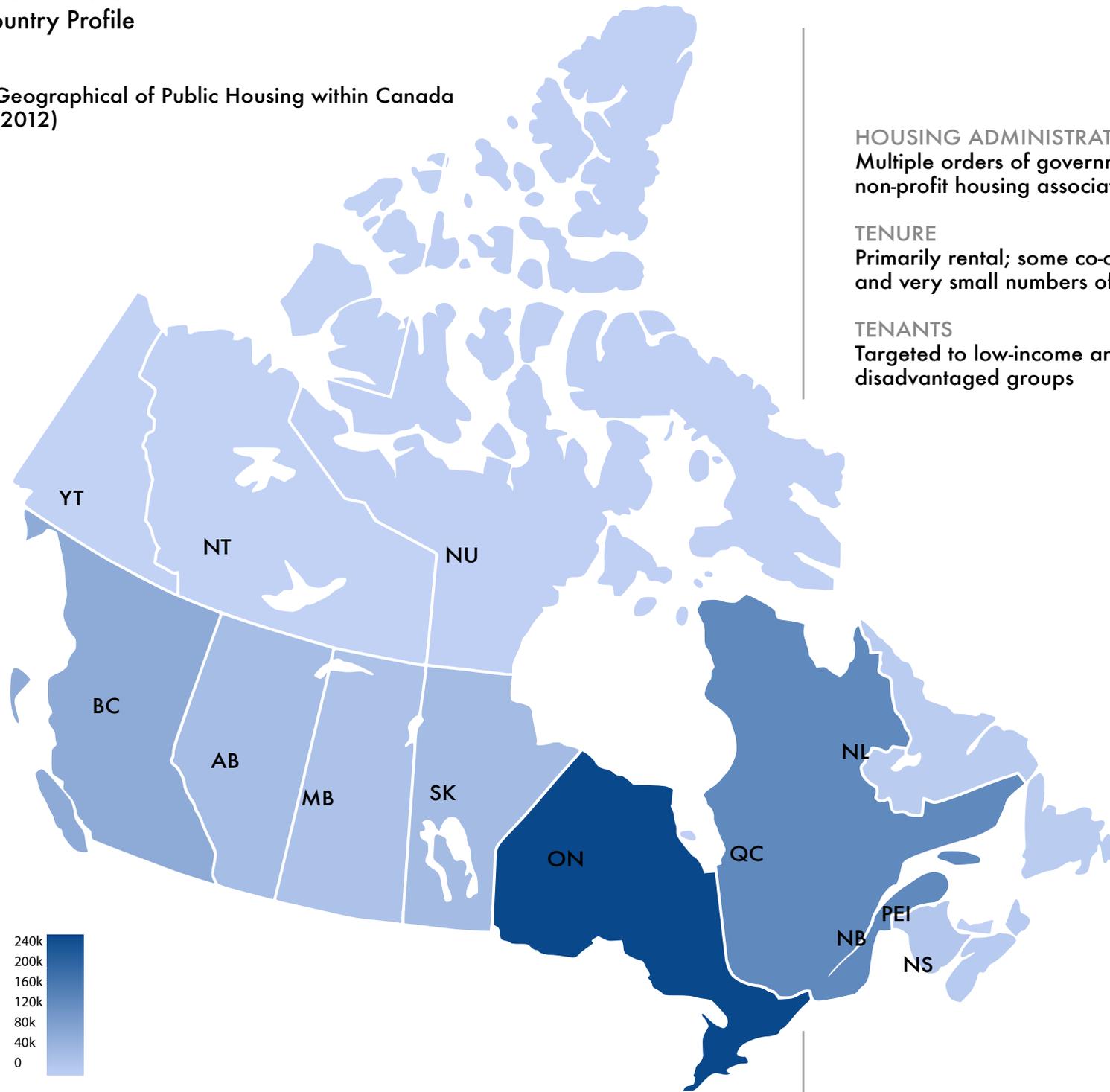


Canada

Country Profile

Geographical of Public Housing within Canada (2012)



HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

Multiple orders of government and non-profit housing associations

TENURE

Primarily rental; some co-operative housing and very small numbers of home ownership

TENANTS

Targeted to low-income and other socially disadvantaged groups

PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS

588,392(2013)
627,125(2008)
636,868(2003)
643,750(1998)

PUBLIC HOUSING PERCENTAGE

5%(2012)

Canadian public housing was primarily a federal responsibility under the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) until the 1990s, at which point the federal government began devolving administrative and funding responsibility to the provinces (in most cases). Municipal governments are also emerging as key players in development of public housing. Public housing can be owned and operated by government, or managed by non-profit housing associations often with partial subsidies from multiple levels of governments (local, provincial, federal) for construction and / or operating costs. This housing is prioritized for low-income and other socially disadvantaged group; rents are often set at 30% of income. Housing co-ops have historically received government construction and operation subsidies and provide market and below-market subsidized units. A newly emerging piece of the public housing puzzle is 'affordable housing', which generally refers to programs where ongoing operating costs are not covered by government and tenants typically pay 80% of market rent.

Canada

Country Profile (continued)

KEY MILESTONES AND TRENDS

1941 – 1947: Wartime Housing Limited builds affordable housing for returning veterans and munitions workers and their families

1946: Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is established

1950's and 1960's: large-scale government managed public housing projects for low-income tenants are built such as Regent Park in Toronto and Benny's Farm in Montreal

1970's and 1980s: Expansion of public and social housing stock with long-term subsidies; government financing for smaller, mixed-income projects managed by co-operative and non-profit housing organizations

1990s: devolution of fiscal and administrative responsibility from the federal government to provinces and territories; dramatic decrease in funding by federal government and shift away from ongoing long-term subsidies

2000s: introduction of various initiatives focused on creating affordable housing units via up-front capital contributions; increasing role of provinces, territories and municipalities in funding and management of public housing

SOURCES

Historical Trends:

1971- 2013: data is from CMHC Annual Reports, retrieved from http://www.cmhc.ca/en/corp/li/rere/rere_033.cfm

1947 and 1946: data is from the Report of the Federal Task Force on Housing and Urban Development (1969), retrieved from http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/pdfs/policyarchives/1969_Hellyer_Housing-Urban-.pdf

Number of occupied dwellings, 1971 – 2011: Canadian Census Data, <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm>

NOTES

Figures given are numbers of households assisted; percentages are derived from numbers of households as a percentage of total occupied dwelling units from Canadian Census data.

CMHC publishes data annually that is an estimate of households that are assisted through existing agreements; it does not capture public housing that is funded by provincial governments or municipalities without federal funding and thus is an under-representation of the total number of public housing units in Canada.

CMHC estimates of households assisted includes households assisted through existing agreements with Provinces and Territories, those administered by CMHC under various social housing programs (rent assistance, cooperatives, non-profit housing, urban native and public housing; rural and native housing; limited dividend companies; on reserve as well as RRAP Rental; RH Conversion and SEP) as well as households assisted through CMHCs Affordable Housing Centre.

