

The final push for Bill C-304

Third reading slated for June 2010

Draft legislation to create a long-overdue and much-needed national affordable housing plan is heading back to the Commons for third and final reading in June. [Bill C-304](#) is private member's legislation from Vancouver East MP Libby Davies that would require the federal government to consult widely and introduce a comprehensive plan within 180 days. As the bill has worked its way through the legislative process, it has drawn the support of the New Democratic Party, Liberals and Bloc Quebecois – along with a lone Conservative. However, a proposed amendment from the Bloc has been ruled out of order by the Speaker, and the Bloc is threatening to vote against the plan (it would have allowed Quebec to opt out and adopt a parallel housing strategy).

As [Carol Goar reports](#), without the Bloc's 48 votes, her bill has little chance of becoming law. Undeterred, Davies has launched a three-pronged effort to save her bill:

- She is attempting to delay the vote on her bill. She hopes to buy time by allowing other MPs with private member's bills to move ahead of her on the order paper.
- She is encouraging individuals and organizations that believe affordable housing is a basic right to contact their MP. (Many of her supporters need no urging. Groups such as Campaign 2000, the Salvation Army and the Council of Canadians with Disabilities have already launched email blitzes.)
- And she is approaching as many MPs as she can — urban Conservatives in particular — about the housing needs of their constituents.

Bill C-304 mandates particular attention to the homeless, the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, Aboriginal communities, and those experiencing violence.

Contact your local MP to stress the importance of this legislation. For a petition to the Bloc Quebecois, [click here](#).

Posted on the [Winnipeg Rental Network](#)

