



SECOND STAGE SHELTERS

CLOSING THE HOUSING GAP

The lack of safe, affordable housing in Canada is a huge barrier for survivors trying to leave their abusers. Intimate partner violence is the leading cause of women's homelessness in Canada and the US.¹ Second stage shelters help prevent homelessness by providing survivors with safe, supportive transitional housing while also helping them with their search for permanent housing.

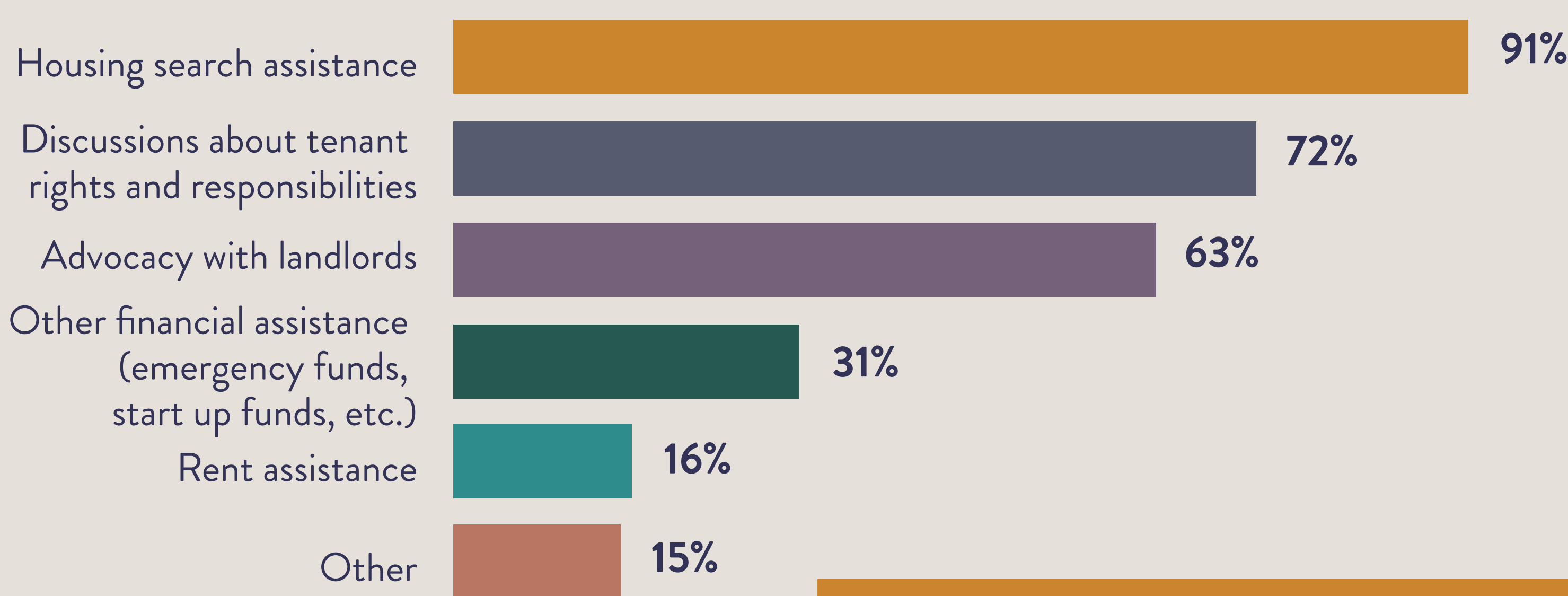
97% of second stage shelters surveyed indicated that affordable housing is “always” or “sometimes” hard to find in their community.

Despite this, in the past year, **76%** of women leaving the second stage shelters we surveyed had secured permanent housing.

“[Housing was] certainly the biggest thing...and they were really good about that...They worked really hard to get me housing before giving birth, which was so amazing and really helpful.”

*—former resident,
British Columbia, interview*

TYPES OF HOUSING SUPPORTS



70% of second stage shelters surveyed provide housing supports for residents. However, due to lack of funding, only **26%** of surveyed shelters have a dedicated housing worker to do this important work.

WSC supports the MMIWG Inquiry's call for new housing to meet the needs of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and long-term sustainable funding for a range of Indigenous-led supportive housing for IPV survivors.

IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION

Canada needs more social and affordable housing units, while also increasing the number of second stage shelters for intimate partner violence survivors who need more support.

¹ Tutty, L. (2015). "Addressing the safety and trauma issues of abused women: A cross-Canada study of YWCA shelters". *Journal of International Women's Studies*. Vol. 16 (3), 101-116.

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