

2026 Student Challenge

Screening Challenge: Rethinking Housing in Canada

This challenge is designed to assess your team's readiness to develop and advocate for solutions to complex issues.

Background

Conversations about housing in Canada have grown urgent, and increasingly narrow. Much of the public discourse centres on prices, supply, interest rates, and regulatory barriers. These are real concerns. But they risk reducing home to a commodity and housing to an inventory problem. Meanwhile, deeper questions go unasked: about how we live, how communities form and fray, how places carry meaning, how needs shift across a lifetime. The loudest voices in the debate may not be asking the most important questions.

Your Challenge

As a team, consider the public conversation about housing in Canada. What perspectives are missing, and why does that absence matter?

Choose one missing perspective and argue why it should be central, not peripheral, to how we think about housing. Ground your argument in a concrete Canadian context: a place, a community, a situation. Finally, identify one assumption in current housing discourse that most needs to be questioned.

As you approach this challenge, keep the following points in mind:

- Focus on convincing others: Decide whom you want to persuade, and develop a compelling argument for your perspective.
- You may use AI assistance: AI tools can help generate or refine ideas. But be critical of the output; AI tends toward the familiar and the general. The perspectives most worth surfacing are often those it overlooks.
- Visual representation is encouraged: Diagrams, drawings, or other visual elements can strengthen your argument.

When completing the [application form](#), you will be prompted to upload a Microsoft Word document (max. two pages, inclusive of all exhibits, appendices, tables, or visuals) outlining your approach. **Applications are due by January 31, 2026 at 11:59PM ET.**