

**A NEW LIFE FOR  
SYRIAN REFUGEES**

**THE CASE FOR  
SOCIAL HOUSING**

**47 LOCAL TRAVEL  
DESTINATIONS**

# albertaviews

NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR ENGAGED CITIZENS // MAY 2017

## THE GREAT TRAILFAIL

How the Trans Canada  
Trail became a  
dangerous hoax

The TCT—"a greenway trail that  
promotes non-motorized uses"  
—just outside Cochrane, Alta.

\$5.95 DISPLAY UNTIL MAY 14



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**THE TEMPEST** BY CAMPBELL WALLACE  
2009. Acrylic and oil on canvas. 36" x 36".

Nepal after the earthquake. She came here to try and make a better life for herself and for her young son; however, once she was here, her life took a turn into further, more difficult circumstances. Her husband became physically violent. She was fortunately able to flee with her young son, and she was helped by a women's shelter. However, at a point you have to leave a women's shelter. This friend of mine had to find affordable housing, and she had to find daycare for her son. Her son had to move schools. This woman makes \$12 an hour working full time at a fast-food restaurant. She looked for a suitable apartment for half a year, and she was finally able to secure a one-bedroom basement suite. Now, this suite is not legal. It doesn't have a separate entrance. It doesn't have separate laundry.... Adequate housing is a fundamental human right enshrined under Article 25 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Safe, adequate housing is essential to social well-being.

Mr. Speaker, emergency shelters are not adequate housing and cars are not adequate housing. It's not acceptable for someone to be asked for six months of rent up front. It's not acceptable for someone's rent to go up hundreds to thousands of dollars with only three months' warning. What are we saying as a society when mortgages on most three-bedroom houses cost less than the monthly cost of renting a two-bedroom apartment?

Housing in Alberta is at a crisis point.... There are over 3,000 people on the wait-list to get into Calgary Housing and more

than 15,000 people on the wait-list for social housing across Alberta.... There's a steadily increasing demand for affordable housing, but we have limited supply. Alberta is expected to grow by more than a million people in the next decade and two million people by 2041. This is a problem that urgently needs to be addressed and it's not something that's going to disappear.

GRANDE PRAIRIE

## Stuck on the Waiting List

*From "Interviews with people without homes," by Monica Kreiner, Mowjasko Consulting, for the City of Grande Prairie Homeless Initiative, Fall 2014.*

I always asked people whether they had a home or not before interviewing them. In one case I talked to someone who had a home but was about to lose it due to eviction. I also spoke to another man who had been on the street in Grande Prairie for years but had recovered from his addiction and was visiting Grande Prairie and his old friends and agencies to thank them for their help and support. The others all reported verbally that they were without homes....

The biggest obstacle people found was simply finding affordable housing. Several people talked about looking for