INTRODUCTION

The issue of housing has emerged as one of the most pressing challenges in Canada today, intersecting powerfully with questions of migration, settlement, and cohesion. At a time when global displacement is reaching unprecedented levels, Canada remains a destination of choice for those seeking safety, opportunity, and a sense of belonging. Yet, as this edition of Canadian Diversity makes clear, the promise of protection and integration cannot be realized without addressing the housing situation often encountered by newcomers as well as established communities.

The contributions in this volume reveal the many layers of the problem. They examine refugee resettlement and the disparities that shape access to shelter, the lived experiences of asylum seekers navigating precarious housing markets, and the systemic barriers that affect both migrant and Indigenous communities across the country. The perspectives presented here draw from research, policy, health, and community practice, highlighting the vital role played by local organizations and service providers in filling critical gaps.

Housing is not only about buildings or markets. It is a cornerstone of dignity, security, and well-being. Without stable homes, integration efforts stall, health outcomes decline, and social divisions deepen. At the same time, the ideas and initiatives presented in these pages remind us that solutions are within reach when we approach housing as a shared responsibility and a collective right.