

From: [Accessible Housing Network](#)
To: [Mayor Tory](#); [Clerk](#)
Subject: Inclusionary zoning must include everyone - seniors, people with disabilities
Date: October 24, 2021 8:33:37 PM

Dear Mayor Tory and all City Councillors,

Inclusionary zoning is urgently needed - and it must include universal design.

Universal design accommodates everyone, regardless of age or ability. It goes beyond mere accessibility and demonstrates an underlying commitment to including as wide a range of users as possible.

As CMHC has reported, building a new apartment requires the same amount of space and costs the same, whether the apartment is accessible or not. So let's make every unit fully accessible. Then anyone can live there, and nobody will be forced out of their apartment due to serious illness or disability.

Making the housing accessible will have many benefits which might surprise you:

- Reduced costs for long-term care facilities. Many people will be able to remain in their accessible homes, freeing up spaces in nursing homes.
- Protection of seniors and persons with disabilities from catastrophes like those seen in long-term care homes during the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Reduced need for in-home support help;
- Improved mental and physical health;
- Fewer falls;
- Fewer ambulance calls;
- Fewer hospitalizations;
- Increased employment of people with disabilities.

Seniors and people with disabilities pay taxes.

No tax dollars should ever create accessibility barriers.

Sincerely,
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