BV 5.1.12

From: Living in Place Campaign
c/o Older Women's Network
115 The Esplanade
Toronto ON M5E 1Y7
Email: livinginplaceto@gmail.com
Tel: (416)214-1518 or (416)925-0745

To: Budget Committee
City of Toronto

Re: 2020 City Budget Consultation

Nearly one quarter of the Toronto population is being neglected, and this is costing taxpayers millions of long-term care dollars.

As of 2017, according to Statistics Canada, 22% of Canadians had a disability of some kind. Disabilities play no favourites. Anyone can have been born with a disability, and anyone of any age can be struck by illness or accident which creates a temporary or lasting injury. We're all one missed step, one fall or one medical complication away from disability. As we get older, we're are likely to have two or more types of disability.

This is a **Public Health** issue, a **Human Rights** issue, and a **financial** issue.

The **Living in Place campaign** advocates that the **Ontario Building Code be changed to require that all units in new multi-unit residential buildings be entirely *universal design,* so anyone of any age or ability can live there** and can continue to live there despite changes wrought by age, illness or trauma.

Change can begin at the municipal level - for example, in Toronto, by **making universal design mandatory in all new housing that the city creates through the Affordable Housing Office, Open Doors and Housing Now, new developments built with any tax dollars and/or on land made available by**

the City, and through agreements with developers. All new and renovated Toronto Community Housing units must also be made accessible.

No tax dollars should ever be used to in any way support or subsidize the building of housing which is not accessible to all.

Universal design makes sense financially. It is not expensive. When included from the planning stage, **universal design costs less than 1% more**. (It is renovations made to standard construction which are exorbitantly expensive.) In fact, **accessible housing keeps people out of long term care, saving millions of healthcare dollars.**

There will be **huge healthcare savings** if people are not needlessly stuck in acute care hospitals and on waiting lists for long-term care. Making all new apartments and condos accessible will **reduce the City's costs for future long-term care facilities.**

The cost of universal design in housing is less than 1% more than for conventional construction when planned from the design stage. (It is renovation of existing housing which is costly.)

Universal design takes into account all forms of disability. At the same time, it makes life easier for everyone. (We all benefit from curb cuts, automatic doors, etc.)

There is currently no Ontario law requiring that housing be accessible. The AODA does not mention housing. The Ontario Building Code only requires that 15% of new apartments be "visitable" - not accessible enough to live there. Both the AODA and the OBC are in contravention of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Human Rights Code, and United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Barrier-free housing is a human right.

Thank-you for your support of this urgently needed, and tax dollar-saving change.

Kate Chung.

Kate Chung
for Living in Place Campaign

The Living in Place Campaign has been endorsed by:

1. City of Toronto Council

2. Unitarian Commons Co-Housing Corporation

3. ARCH Disability Law Centre

4. David Lepofsky CM, O. Ont, Chair Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance

5. Tenants for Social Housing

6. Roger Gervais, Eastern Ontario's first Certified Aging in Place Specialist

7. Tafler Rylett Architects

8. Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt

9. Right to Housing Coalition

10. Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)

11. Toronto Seniors Forum

12. Toronto Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

13. Steering committee for the ODSP Action Coalition

14. Income Security Advocacy Centre (ISAC)

15. Baba Yaga Place

16.The Architect Builders Collaborative Inc.

17. Older Women's Network

18. Cathy Crowe, Street Nurse, C.M., Distinguished Visiting Practitioner, Ryerson University

19. Rebecca Hagey (MacKay),Retired Associate Professor Lawrence S Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing University of Toronto

20. Ontarians with Disabilities League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada

21. BALANCE for Blind Adults

22. Toronto Raging Grannies

23. SAAC Senior Advisory Council (TCHC seniors)

24. Brentwood Towers Tenant Association

25. Dramaway

26. Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), North Toronto

27. Care Watch

28. Lowell Lo Design Inc. Architect

29. GTA Disability Coalition

30. Open Architecture Toronto

31. Adrian Blackwell, Associate Professor, School of Architecture University of Waterloo

32. Greenspiration

33. Ontario Association of Interval & Transition Houses