

September 25, 2024

To: Planning and Housing Committee, City of Toronto c/o City Clerk

Submitted via email: phc@toronto.ca

For meeting on September 26, 2024 re: Item 2024.PH15.6 – Increasing the City's Supply of Accessible Affordable Housing

As Co-Chairs of the [Accelerating Accessibility Coalition](#) (AAC), we are writing in relation to the report that recommends ways to increase the City's supply of accessible affordable housing based on the work of the Housing Secretariat and the Accessible Housing Working Group.

In our discussions with Coalition members, we understand that we will collectively make progress if there is clearer language and standards on what's accessible – starting with measures that are easy and not costly – and there are ways to better match accessible home supply with demand. The recommendations in this report will contribute to these strategies.

The AAC is a first-of-its-kind community of 63 real estate development and accessibility leaders that works collectively to create a more accessible Canada – many of whom contributed to this report through your working group. We are leading by example through education, awareness raising, research and encouraging 'beyond building code' design choices. We've started a movement and advocate that all home builders make physical accessibility a priority as we build the millions of new homes needed across Canada in the next decade.

The coalition is underpinned by the belief that accessible housing benefits everyone, and that a sign of an inclusive and prosperous country is where people of all ages and abilities can participate fully in society, including having access to homes that are barrier-free. For Canada to realize this vision, the supply of accessible housing needs to match the demand.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of affordable, accessible housing in Toronto and across Canada, many people with disabilities are unable to access homes that meet their needs and enable them to remain independent in their own homes and communities – as the research in this report so clearly illustrates.

We encourage the City of Toronto to move forward on ways that:

1. Meet the needs of all residents and support their ability to participate fully in society.
2. Ensure new homes are built without access barriers.
3. Contribute to creating a more accessible city by significantly increasing the supply of new housing that is accessible and welcoming to people of all ages and abilities.

Through these recommendations, the City of Toronto has an opportunity to contribute to the Accessible Canada Act's goal of a barrier-free Canada and to realize the human right to adequate housing enshrined in the National Housing Strategy Act and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments. We look forward to seeing your committee move forward with recommendations that will contribute to building homes that meet the needs of all Torontonians and to inspire others across the country and beyond.

Sincerely,



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cc. Members of the Accelerating Accessibility Coalition:

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT	ACCESSIBILITY
ULI (Urban Land Institute) Toronto	Accessible Housing Network
ARISTA Homes	AccessNow
Cadillac Fairview	Aequum Global Access Inc
Choice Properties REIT	Atlantic Accessibility Consulting
Collecdev-Markee	Bellwoods Centres

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT	ACCESSIBILITY
Devron	Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network
DiamondCorp	CNIB Access Labs
Diamond Schmitt Architects	Community Living Toronto
EllisDon Community Builders	Direct Access Consultancy
Giannone Petricone Associates	Incluzia Inc
Greenwin	Intentional Community Consortium
GWL Realty Advisors	L'Arche Toronto Homes Inc
Habitat for Humanity GTA	March of Dimes Canada
Human Space	Pedesting Corporation
Jeffrey Kerr, RE/MAX Prime Properties Unique Group	Reena
National Homes	Regroupement des organismes pour aînés et aînées du sud-ouest de Montréal (ROPASOM)
Northcrest Developments	Rick Hansen Foundation
Percy Ellis	RPATH Committee (Responsible Personal Accessibility in Toronto Housing)
Penguin Living	Safehaven
SHS Consulting	Spinal Cord Injury Ontario
Ron Wickman Architect	StopGap Foundation
RioCan REIT	Sunnybrook Research Institute
TAS	The Right Fit Program
Tenblock	Yazmine Laroche
The Daniels Corporation	
BILD (Building Industry and Land Development Association)	
Jennevieve Virata	
Woodbourne Capital Management International, LP	
Woodgreen	

CIVIC and EDUCATION
Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR)
City of Vaughan
CivicAction
PEACH Research Unit, Dalhousie University
Design Industry Advisory Committee (DIAC)
John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design, University of Toronto
Waterfront Toronto
Centre for Feminist Research, York University