



## Mayoral candidate pledges accessible housing

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TORONTO The Accessible Housing Network is asking all mayoral candidates to sign the Accessible Housing Pledge, committing to ensuring that all new apartments and condominiums are Universal Design - accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

The first candidate to sign the Pledge is Celina Caesar-Chavannes, who stated that she fully supports the campaign.

“I would be long dead if I never had accessible housing,” says Tracy Odell, past president of Citizens with Disabilities Ontario. “When I was 7, I left my home in Ottawa to live in a long-term care institution for children with physical disabilities. 40 other children lived there. Kids like us were fobbed off to nursing homes when we turned 18. We heard very little from our friends who went there. What we did hear was very frightening. I was extremely lucky that I turned 18 when I did. A pilot project provided care in the community along with an accessible apartment. I was free to go to school and have friends in my life! In the 50 years which have passed since I left the institution, there has been little progress in providing accessible housing.”

The **Accessible Housing Network** is a non-partisan network of over 45 Canadian non-profit organizations working to end the extreme lack of accessible housing.

**For more information:**

**Hear Tracy's story:**

<https://youtu.be/DIMtM7jLvmk>

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**Accessible Housing Pledge:**

[https://www.accessiblehousingnetwork.org/\\_files/ugd/bf8caa\\_5b21d23f84364be8b9a847587940200a.pdf](https://www.accessiblehousingnetwork.org/_files/ugd/bf8caa_5b21d23f84364be8b9a847587940200a.pdf)

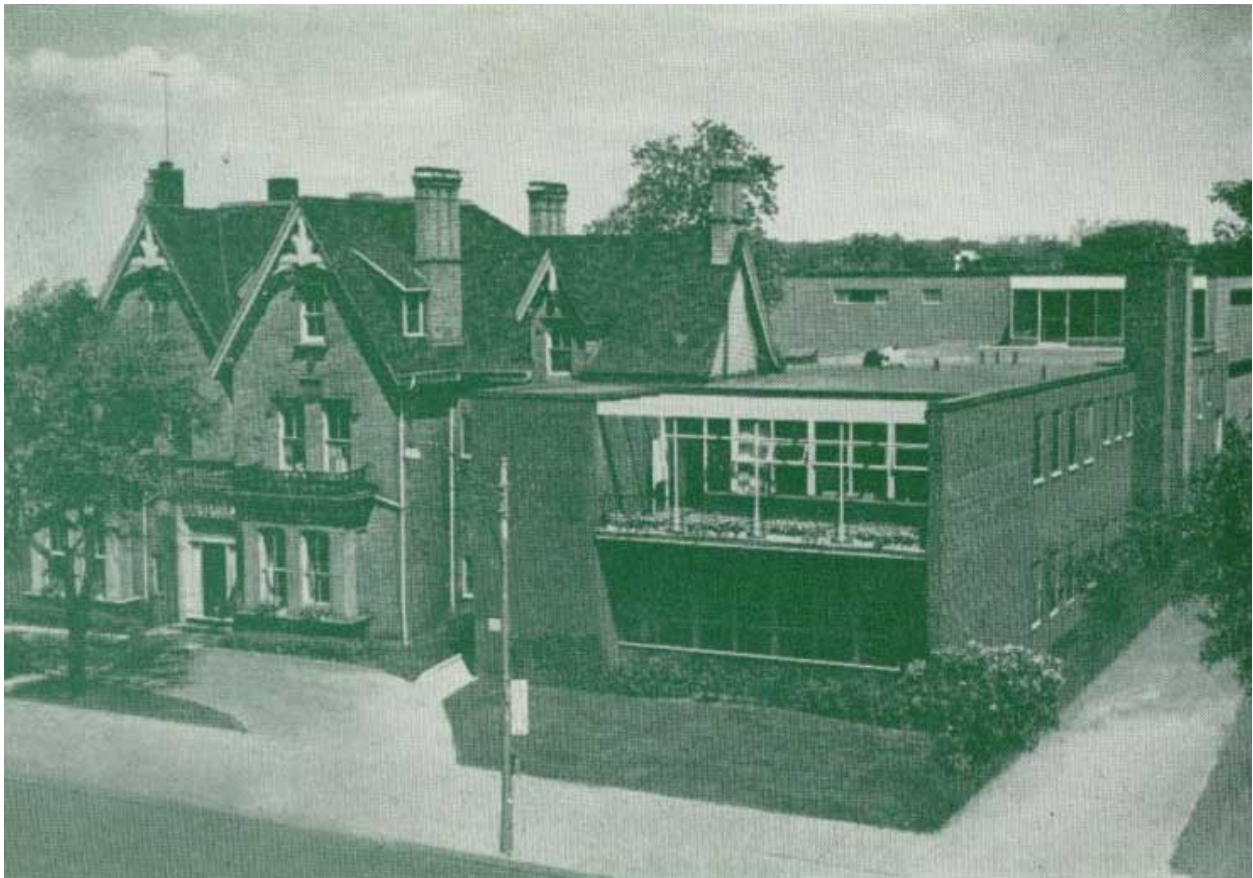


Photo: Bloorview Children's Hospital