

Dear MP _____

Re: Accessible Housing Crisis

I need accessible housing because

As an MP, here are some important facts which you should know and act on:

First, the government of Canada has declared that **housing is a human right**.

The need for **accessible** affordable housing is a crisis. **27% of Canadians have a disability**, and this figure is rising. Anyone can have been born with a disability, and anyone of any age can experience illness or accident that creates an injury.

Universal design makes a home accessible, and will accommodate nearly anyone of any age or ability.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation reports that the cost of building a new apartment is the same whether it's accessible or not - if accessibility features are planned from the design stage. For a house, the additional cost is negligible. It is renovations to conventional housing which are expensive.

The **National Building Code** must be amended to make universal design mandatory in every unit in all new housing. Australia has already done this, and Canada can do so too.

Provinces follow the lead of the National Building Code. To harmonize all provincial Building Codes, the National Building Code must be updated so that all Canadians have access to the housing they need. There is currently no provincial law requiring that housing be accessible.

No tax dollars should ever create accessibility barriers.

I call on you to ensure a federal mandate that all new housing be fully accessible (universal design). Please confirm with me that you have done so.

Sincerely,

Name

Address & postal code