



## **Candidates pledge action on accessible housing crisis**

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For Immediate Release

### **No other group suffers such discrimination in housing**

Toronto - The growing awareness of the crisis caused by the lack of accessible housing can be seen in the increasing numbers of election candidates signing the Accessible Housing Pledge.

Accessible Housing Network (AHN) volunteer Marion Croft was warmly welcomed when she visited four candidates in Bay of Quinte riding - Alison Kelly - NDP, Emilie Leneveu - Liberal, Erica Charlton - Green Party, and Rob Collins - New Blue Ontario Party. The candidates were extremely interested and noted that the AHN group and what they stand for is very important.

All four candidates signed the Pledge that, if elected, they will:  
*Ensure that the Government of Ontario implements fully the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its associated Protocol; and*  
*Actively work to change the Ontario Building Code to require that 100% of units in every new multi-unit residential building be built according to universal design principles, so anyone of any age or ability can live there.*

The Ontario Human Rights Code prohibits discrimination based on disability. Despite the fact that the Human Rights Code takes precedence over all other laws, there is no law in Ontario requiring that any housing be accessible, although 24% of Ontarians have a disability.

“No other group suffers such discrimination in housing,” says AHN co-chair Kate Chung. “The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) does not even mention housing.”

The pledge can be downloaded from the Accessible Housing Network website. All candidates in the June 2 election are urged to sign it and email their signed copy to AHN.

-30-



Alison Kelly, NDP candidate, Bay of Quinte with AHN volunteer Marion Croft (photo courtesy AHN)

### **Candidate’s Pledge: Accessible Housing 2022**

**I pledge that if I am elected as a Member of the Provincial Parliament of Ontario, I will:**

Ensure that the Government of Ontario implements fully the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its associated Protocol;

Actively work to change the Ontario Building Code (OBC) to require that 100% of units in every new multi-unit residential building be built according to *universal design\** principles (UD), so anyone of any age or ability can live there.

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The **Accessible Housing Network (AHN)** is a non-partisan network working to support the human rights of persons with disabilities to end the extreme lack of accessible housing.

**For more information, please contact:**

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