



## **ACCESSIBLE HOUSING CRISIS - PETITION TO HOUSE OF COMMONS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TORONTO A new petition to the House of Commons calls for the National Building Code to be changed to make Universal Design mandatory in all new apartments and condos. Universal design will accommodate anyone of any age, size or ability, going beyond mere visitability.

“Although over 22% of Canadians have a disability, no law in Canada mandates that housing be accessible. This contravenes the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and Canadian Human Rights Act, all of which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability,” states Accessible Housing Network co-chair, Sal Amenta.

“Thousands are forced out of their inaccessible dwellings when most vulnerable. This results in “hallway medicine” and long waiting lists for long-term care. Millions of healthcare dollars could be saved if people could stay in their own accessible homes, which they overwhelmingly prefer,” adds past co-chair Kate Chung.

The petition is sponsored by Kitchener Centre Green Party MP Mike Morrice. It can be signed at <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4543>

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