

Needs more accessibility in unit

Mike Ashkewe's story

I was able to find housing, but I'm now in a place where the rent goes up often. The building was built in the 1960s. A better bathroom would be a priority – with wider doors and improved facilities. The kitchen is galley style, so if I didn't have a partner, I'd have no way of getting meals prepared. It would be nice to have a more accessible, more affordable place. I have not asked the landlord to make improvements, because that would fall on deaf ears. Progress on accessible housing at city hall has been glacial at best. The municipality does not do enough to make accessible housing that is below market rent. Renovictions disproportionately affect the disabled. The current federal government does not address the housing crisis in disability – no federal parties recognize it.

Mike Ashkewe is a media and accessibility consultant and a disability and Indigenous advocate in Guelph, Ontario, who uses a wheelchair.