

Accessible Housing Pledge, Mayoral candidates 2023

Whereas:

- 24% of Ontarians have a disability.
- The dire lack accessible housing is forcing many desperate people to seek MAID.
- Universal design will accommodate almost everyone of any age or ability.
- It costs the same to build a new apartment whether it is accessible or not. (CMHC)
- The City need not wait for other levels of government to change laws. Instead, the City can lead in honouring the Human Right to housing for elders and people of all ages with disabilities. No tax dollars should ever create accessibility barriers.
- Toronto City Council in, October, 2016, endorsed the campaign to promote universal design in construction of all new multi-residential buildings and to support the objectives to amend the Provincial Building Code to ensure accessibility and inclusivity for all.

I pledge that if I am elected Mayor of Toronto,:

1. I will ensure that the City of Toronto, in all decisions related to housing, honours **the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, all of which take precedence over all other legislation, bylaws, and regulations.
2. **I will make universal design mandatory** in all new housing that the city creates through all City programs, or with any incentives, including tax dollars, land, agreements to defer fees or taxes, or other forms of incentive.
3. I will mandate that **all renovated City housing units** be made fully accessible / universal design.
4. **I will champion Universal Design** in all new multi-unit residential buildings so anyone of any age or ability can live there.
5. **I will amend Toronto's Bylaws to require that every unit in all newly-constructed apartment buildings (rental or condo), and all congregate care facilities, be built to Universal Design standards.**
6. I will ensure that the **City's centralized waiting lists** effectively match disabled applicants with the appropriate housing.
7. I will ensure that elders and people with disabilities are included in the making of all decisions regarding housing (not just "consulted"). "Nothing about us without us".
8. **I will be accountable for the outcomes resulting from Toronto's efforts to make housing accessible through Universal design.**

Signature

Name

Date