



4th candidate signs accessible housing pledge

April 9, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marlene Spruyt, Green Party Candidate & Health Critic calls for Building Code change

Toronto - Marlene Spruyt, Green Party candidate in Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, has signed the pledge to work to change the Ontario Building Code to require that 100% of units in every new multi-unit residential building be universal design.

“Requiring universal accessibility in new multi-unit buildings will improve the supply of housing for individuals with disabilities, providing more independence and less reliance on institutional care,” said Spruyt.

The pledge has also been signed by Green Party leader and Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, St Pauls Green candidate Ian Lipton, and NDP Critic for Accessibility, Ottawa Centre MPP Joel Harden.

At their 2021 convention, Ontario Green Party members passed a resolution “that the Green Party supports complying with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by making fully accessible design mandatory for all new apartments in multi-unit buildings”.

Maddy Dever, a member of the Accessible Housing Network’s steering committee, explains, “I myself am in a precarious housing situation. We have been able to find a way of making things accessible for me, but I don't have access to the rest of the house. We can't leave here because even if there was anything more accessible, there is nothing even remotely

affordable. The cost of rent has gone up almost 80% here. I'm on ODSP, and there is nothing I can rent in our county."

The Accessible Housing Network (AHN) invites Ontario voters to urge candidates in their ridings to sign the Accessible Housing Pledge, which can be printed from the AHN website.



From right, Marlene Spruyt, Green Party candidate in Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, and Maddy Dever

Quotes:

“It costs the same to build a new apartment whether accessible or not,” says Minette Samaroo, President of the Toronto chapter of the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC).

“Although 24% of Ontarians have a disability and millions of seniors also have one or more disabilities, the Ontario Building Code currently requires only that 15% of new units be “visitable” - not accessible enough to live there”, says Kate Chung, co-chair of the Accessible Housing Network.

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.

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.

MEDIA CONTACT:

For more information, please contact:

Accessible Housing Network <accessiblehousingnetwork@gmail.com>

Co-chair: Kate Chung (416) 925-0745

Steering Committee member: Maddy Dever (613) 700-8090

Website: accessiblehousingnetwork.org