



We are seeking your pledge for the next term of Council.

City Council Candidate's Pledge:

Accessible Housing 2022

I pledge that, as a Member of my municipal Council, I will:

Take these seven practical steps towards making my municipality fairer and more equitable for ALL.

Housing that is affordable

1. Deepen the benefits of our housing investments

Inclusionary zoning. Development charge and property tax waivers. Contributions of municipally-owned land at reduced or no cost. These are just some of the tools used to create more affordable housing. The problem is that even with these benefits, “affordable” rents this year not really affordable.

I pledge:

To combine rent supplements with existing municipal housing initiatives to create homes that are truly affordable for the lowest income earners.

2. Preserve the affordable housing we already have

This municipality is losing affordable apartments faster than it can create them. The cheapest, fastest way to catch up is to help non-profit and co-op organizations purchase small apartment buildings and keep them affordable forever.

I pledge:

To progressively expand our residential acquisitions program to keep more rental properties affordable forever.

Housing that is habitable

3. Learn about a building's condition from the people who live there

Who really knows what it's like to live in a building? The people who live there! Yet today, inspectors check only a building's common areas, and don't see the inside of units where tenants actually live. There is no system for giving tenants notice that inspectors are coming, no channel for tenants to identify concerns about their own units, and no system for posting inspection results.

I pledge:

To establish protocols to ensure tenants have an active voice in the evaluation of their homes, with enough Bylaw Enforcement Officers to do the job.

Housing that is accessible

4. Direct public investment to homes that are accessible to all

Our seniors population is expected to double by 2041. Many people with disabilities are already living in institutions simply because they can't find an accessible home. We need to create enough Universal Design homes to match this municipality's needs.

I pledge:

To champion Universal Design in all new apartment buildings so that anyone of any age or ability can move into and stay in their homes.

To ensure the centralized waiting lists effectively match disabled applicants with the appropriate housing.

Housing that is secure

5. Prevent homelessness

Shelters are costly to taxpayers and hard on the people who stay there. The better path is to prevent homelessness by helping people stay housed. Indigenous people, newcomers, racialized households, LGBTQ+ individuals and women face many challenges in accessing adequate housing including mainstream shelters' inability to provide information, guidance or referrals to address immigration needs and discrimination in shelters.

We have the tools. It's time to scale up and address the needs of marginalized communities accessing shelter supports.

I pledge:

To expand the municipal eviction prevention programs, rent supports and housing stabilization supports to enable tenants to remain in their homes and challenge bad faith evictions.

Housing close to services and infrastructure

6. Make the most of our public infrastructure

We are failing to make good use of the public infrastructure we already have – transit, health clinics, schools and other population specific programs and services – and which low-income people in particular depend on. It also means our municipality is missing out on informal housing arrangements, such as shared housing and second suites, that lower income people can afford.

Certain communities such as Indigenous, Black and racialized households face disproportionate barriers to access housing and may have to choose between housing affordability and proximity to services, even choosing to live precariously in order to be close to services available.

I pledge:

To facilitate the creation of shared housing, second suites, walk-up apartments, townhouses and other “gentle density”

Putting the pledges into action

7. Fulfill our municipality's commitment to the right to housing

The COVID-19 pandemic has made visible that Indigenous, Black and racialized communities, women, people with disabilities, 2SLGBTQ+ individuals, youth leaving care, and people on social assistance are bearing the brunt of the affordable housing crisis.

This is why we need a Housing Commissioner - establishing the Office of the Housing Commissioner to advance the right to housing across the city and monitor who has been served and who has been left behind. The functioning of this office must be governed by the critical principles of inclusion, equity and diversity.

I pledge:

To finally create and fully fund the Office of the Housing Commissioner in 2023.

Signature

Name

Municipality

Ward

Date

Please confirm that you have signed the pledge by sending an email to the Accessible Housing Network <AccessibleHousingNetwork@gmail.com>