



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 27, 2022.**

## **Ontario Green Leader signs accessible housing pledge**

### **Mike Schreiner & Ontario Green Party commit to accessible housing**

Toronto - Ontario Green Party Leader, Mike Schreiner, is the first Party Leader to sign the Accessible Housing Pledge. Standing at the foot of the staircase which makes his own Queen's Park office inaccessible to people with mobility disabilities, Mr. Schreiner stated that all new housing should be fully accessible.

The Ontario Green Party's housing policy emphasizes the need to "Mandate universal design to ensure that new housing stock is accessible for all and suitable for aging in place."



Ontario Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner signs Pledge with representatives of the Accessible Housing Network (AHN)  
From left: Sal Amenta, Mike Schreiner, Kate Chung, Andrea Hatala  
Photo courtesy AHN

The Accessible Housing Network (AHN) is calling on all those running for provincial office this June to make accessible housing a priority for the next government of Ontario. The main commitments of the pledge are:

- Ensure that the Government of Ontario ratifies and implements the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and
- Work to change the Ontario Building Code to require that 100% of units in every new multi-unit residential building be universal design.

The AHN invites people all over Ontario to urge the candidates in their ridings to sign the Accessible Housing Pledge.

“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. “Despite builders’ claims that accessibility is costly, it actually costs the same to build a new apartment whether accessible or not. It’s renovations to existing housing which are so expensive.”

“In order to catch up with the huge pent-up need, we must make 100% of new housing accessible”, says Minette Samaroo, President of the Toronto chapter of the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC).

The Accessible Housing Network points out to candidates that seniors and people with disabilities are voters. 24% of Ontarians have a disability and millions of seniors also have one or more disabilities. The **Ontario Human Rights Code**, the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**, and the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, all prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability, and they take precedence over all other laws. “This is ignored by governments”, says Chung.

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### **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 ratifies and implements 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.

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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:

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Website: [accessiblehousingnetwork.org](http://accessiblehousingnetwork.org)

**Members of the Accessible Housing Network include:**

- Older Women's Network
- Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC)
- Centre for Independent Living Toronto (CILT)
- Unitarian Commons Cohousing Corporation
- Toronto Raging Grannies
- TRAILBLAZERS Tandem Cycling Club
- Citizens With Disabilities – Ontario (CWDO)
- CERA
- Inclusion Canada
- Community Living Ontario
- Canadian Council of the Blind Toronto Visionaries Chapter
- CNIB
- Live Work Play
- Canadians with Disabilities – Sub Committee of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights
- Ontario Disability Coalition
- Open Architecture Collaborative Canada
- Voice of Albertans with Disabilities
- Seniors for Social Action Ontario (SSAO)
- Niagara Centre for Independent Living
- Equitable Action for Change
- Disability Justice Network of Ontario
- Council on Ageing Ottawa
- Canadian Federation of the Blind
- ODSP Action Coalition
- March of Dimes Canada
- Disability Justice Network of Ontario
- Toronto Seniors' Forum
- NWT Disabilities Council
- Spinal Cord Injury Ontario