Dianne Saxe signs accessible housing pledge

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dianne Saxe, Green Party Deputy Leader, University-Rosedale Candidate calls for Building Code change

Toronto - Dianne Saxe, Deputy Leader of the Ontario Green Party and candidate in University Rosedale riding, has pledged to work to change the Ontario Building Code to mandate that every unit in all new multi-unit residential buildings be universal design.

Photo courtesy Dianne Saxe
The former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario signed the Accessible Housing Pledge, which includes “I will: Ensure that the Government of Ontario implements fully the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”.

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

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.

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”.

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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.

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.”
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.

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Accessible Housing Network <accessiblehousingnetwork@gmail.com>
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Steering Committee member: Maddy Dever (613) 700-8090
Website: accessiblehousingnetwork.org

Accessible Housing Network Members:

Older Women’s Network (OWN)

Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians (AEBC)

Centre for Independent Living Toronto (CILT)

Citizens With Disabilities - Ontario (CWD-O)

TRAILBLAZERS Tandem Cycling Club

Unitarian Commons Cohousing Corporation

Toronto Raging Grannies

CNIB
Community Living Ontario
Inclusion Canada

Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA)
Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB) Toronto Visionaries Chapter

Canadians with Disabilities – Sub Committee of B’nai Brith Canada’s League for Human Rights

Ontario Disability Coalition
Open Architecture Collaborative Canada
MS Society

Voice of Albertans with Disabilities
Seniors for Social Action Ontario (SSAO)
Niagara Centre for Independent Living
LiveWorkPlay
Equitable Action for Change
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
Toronto Council on Aging
Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, President’s Task Force on Accessibility
Nunavut - Nunavummi Disabilities Makinnasuaqtiiit Society (NDMS)
BC Complex Kids Society