Developer and housing advocates call for accessibility

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TORONTO   As Torontonians prepare to vote for a new mayor, people with disabilities are calling attention to the housing crisis no candidate mentions: the dire lack of **accessible** housing.

The Daniels Corporation, which includes some accessible units in all projects, supports the call for change. President and CEO, Mitchell Cohen, comments, 'The City of Toronto's Green Building Standards are forward facing, progressive measures that are leading the world to a lower carbon future. Today, the City also has a responsibility to lead the world on accessibility, to ensure the entire city is accessible, not just offices and public spaces, but the homes we live in. The Ontario Building Code needs a complete overhaul on accessibility, such that everyone is welcome everywhere. But those changes could be years in the making. We don't need to wait. The upcoming mayoral election can set the stage for Toronto's era of inclusion. Our new Mayor will face many challenges. Accessibility can be achieved at very little cost to anyone. All we need is strong leadership."

Sal Amenta, co-chair of the Accessible Housing Network adds, "By adopting standard plumbing, we saw outhouses virtually disappear. By adopting universal design for ALL new homes, we can build a stock of accessible housing. Nobody should be homeless as a result of a disability, accident or illness. Mayoral

candidates are talking a lot about affordability, but not at all about accessibility."

The **Accessible Housing Network i**s a non-partisan network of over 40 Canadian non-profit organizations working to end the extreme lack of accessible housing, urging that all new apartment and condo units be **universal design** - so anyone of any age or ability can live there.

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Photo: Sal Amenta