

# Literature on the Right to Housing for Disabled People

Annotated bibliography



## **About CCHR**

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The Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR) is Canada's leading registered charitable organization working to advance the right to adequate housing. For over 35 years, we have worked tirelessly at the intersection of human rights and housing, providing free services to renters facing evictions and human rights violations to remain housed, providing education and training about housing rights across Canada, and advancing rights-based housing policy through research, policy development, advocacy, and law reform.

## **About this resource**

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With over 170 entries, this annotated bibliography represents the first comprehensive collection of grey literature on the right to housing for disabled people in Canada, focusing on four provinces – British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Ontario – as well as Canada-wide and international sources. It aims to fill a significant gap in existing research by providing a resource that captures the evolving landscape of housing rights for disabled individuals over the past 30 years.

This bibliography is particularly valuable because it highlights both progress and ongoing challenges in this area, offering a nuanced view of what has and has not changed. As grey literature often bypasses the lengthy peer review and editorial processes of academic publishing, it can provide more current and diverse insights. This is especially important for underrepresented areas and authors who might lack access to traditional publishing platforms.

Our hope is that it will serve as a crucial tool for both academic researchers and community-based groups, reflecting the lived experiences of disabled individuals and the work of non-profit organizations dedicated to service and advocacy. Ultimately, we envision this bibliography as a catalyst for political and social change, informing efforts to secure and improve the right to housing for disabled people in Canada.

## **Funder acknowledgement**

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# British Columbia

1. **Aboriginal Housing Management Association. (2023). Exploring inclusive housing for Indigenous peoples living with diverse abilities: An environmental scan. (30 pages).** <https://ahma-bc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/AHMA-ExploringInclusiveHousingforIndigenousPeopleswithDiverseAbilities.pdf>

This environmental scan, by the Aboriginal Housing Management Association (AHMA), uses the language of “diverse ability” in reference to people labelled with an intellectual or developmental disability. The scan encompasses both academic and grey literature, combined with a survey of AHMA providers and interviews with various stakeholders (including people with lived experience), exploring housing needs and challenges for this population. The scan found multiple barriers for Indigenous peoples with diverse abilities, including eligibility for Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) housing, difficulties accessing housing that is both safe and affordable, a need for greater awareness of CLBC services, challenges in the referral process, experiences of anti-Indigenous racism, and a need for culturally supportive inclusive housing options. The report, which is strongly informed by Indigenous sociocultural perspectives and needs, foregrounds reflection on Indigenous concepts of autism and disability more broadly. Within the document are many specific recommendations for change, as well as an extensive bibliography. This research has also informed the development of a framework for cultural safety targeted at service providers who are not Indigenous, to be published separately.

2. **BC Housing. (2022, March 31). *BC Housing Action Plan 2022/23 to 2024/25: The CMHC-British Columbia Bilateral Agreement under the 2017 National Housing Strategy.* (26 pages).** <https://www.bchousing.org/publications/BC-Housing-Action-Plan-2022-25.pdf>

The BC Housing Action Plan report outlines how BC Housing will use funding provided from the CMHC-British Columbia Bilateral Agreement under the 2017 National Housing Strategy. The agreement serves to prioritize housing

affordability in British Columbia, and financially contribute into various housing initiatives and priorities under the B.C. Priorities Housing Initiative, Canada Community Housing Initiative, and the Canada Housing Benefit.

The document outlines the context of British Columbia's housing priorities, current funding programs, consultations completed to support initiatives, a summary of the use of funding, and the expectations and outcomes of the project. To address core housing needs for those with disabilities, the report mentions British Columbia's plan to sustain and invest in supportive housing, housing supply, and the retention of community housing.

3. **BC Housing. (2024). *Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations (BC RAHA) - program overview.*** <https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/BC-RAHA/program-overview>

This webpage provides an overview of the British Columbia Rebate for Accessible Home Adaptations program which provides rebates for up to \$20,000 for eligible low- and moderate-income households to complete home adaptations. The program is aimed at seniors and people with disabilities who need in-home adaptations.

4. **BC Non-Profit Housing Association. (2021, January 2). *BC Disability: Accessible and affordable housing — 1 step forward, 2 steps back.*** <https://bcnpha.ca/bc-disability-accessible-and-affordable-housing-1-step-forward-2-steps-back/>

The article, derived from an interview between Spencer van Vloten of BC Disability and BCNPHA Policy Manager Brian Clifford, explores the landscape of accessible and affordable housing in British Columbia (BC), particularly within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Conducted in January 2021, Clifford sheds light on the intricate interplay between different levels of government in determining the availability of affordable housing units. While federal funding is crucial, Clifford underscores the pivotal role of municipal governments in crafting regulations that foster both accessibility and affordability. To sustainably address housing affordability, he emphasizes the necessity of ongoing provincial and federal financial support, recognizing the limitations faced by municipal authorities in this domain.



Additionally, Clifford highlights the inadequacy of disability income supports for meeting housing costs, advocating for a multifaceted approach involving increased assistance, housing subsidies, refined eligibility criteria, and expanded training and employment opportunities. Despite growing awareness of the pressing need for accessible housing, BC continues to grapple with a shortage, particularly in rural regions, underscoring the urgency for comprehensive action.

5. **BC Non-Profit Housing Association Research Department. (2009, August). *Exploring housing options for people with developmental disabilities in BC.***  
<https://www.communitylivingbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/FINAL-Housing-Options-for-People-with-Developmental-Disabilities-Final-Research-Report-Aug-28-2009.pdf>

Exploring Housing Options for People with Developmental Disabilities in B.C. is a collaborative report prepared by the B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association Research Department released in 2009. A Housing Working Group comprised of different organizations such as B.C. Housing, Community Living British Columbia, and BC Non-Profit Housing Association was created in 2008 to conduct research and create guiding principles and recommendations on addressing housing for adults with developmental disabilities.

This report contains a literature review, an assessment of housing supply use data from 2006, and an environmental scan. Consultations with community housing providers, caregivers and other stakeholders were conducted after preliminary research was completed to create a final report, with seven main recommendations being brought forth to inform housing providers and other stakeholders of principles to consider when creating housing for persons with disabilities.

6. **Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives—BC Office. (2008, December). *The time is now: A poverty reduction plan for BC.* (12 pages).**  
[https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC\\_Office\\_Pubs/bc\\_2008/ccpa\\_bc\\_poverty\\_reduction\\_summary.pdf](https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC_Office_Pubs/bc_2008/ccpa_bc_poverty_reduction_summary.pdf)

This short summary of the CCPA-BC's full document, *A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC* (Klein et al.), begins by

noting that BC claims the highest rate of poverty in the country (over half a million people). One of the plan's seven areas of identified priority action is homelessness and affordable housing, with the specific recommendation that BC "immediately start building over 2,000 new units of social housing per year (not counting conversions, rental subsidies, or shelter spaces)" (9). Cost estimates for implementation of the complete plan are \$3-4 billion/year. Disability is not specifically discussed.

7. **Chudnovsky, D. (2008). *Finding our way Home: A report on the homelessness crisis in British Columbia*. New Democrat Official Opposition. (20 pages).**  
<https://sunnvancouver.files.wordpress.com/2011/05/homelessreport.pdf>

This illustrated report, authored by a BC MLA, David Chudnovsky, and issued by the New Democrats during the party's tenure as Official Opposition in the province, identifies homelessness as a "crisis," impacting 10,000–15,000 BC residents at that time (1). Chudnovsky identifies the federal government's withdrawal from funding social housing, and the provincial Liberal-led government's elimination of BC's own social-housing program, as key factors underlying the formation of this crisis. The report positions addressing homelessness as a moral obligation ("it is the right thing to do" [1]), as an issue of community stability and comfort (housed BC residents are "rightfully uncomfortable" at the sight of the large unhoused population [1]), and as a cost-saving measure (asserting that BC could save \$1 billion over five years by ending homelessness [1]). Chudnovsky led the province-wide consultation, *Finding Our Way Home*, in 2007-08, which resulted in the twelve recommendations for change included in this report; among these are reestablishing the Ministry of Housing, re-investing in social housing, implementing a 'Housing First' approach, expanding the public land bank, strengthening tenant rights, and increasing minimum wage and income assistance.

The document contains selected quotations from consultation participants, as well as appendices outlining existing effective approaches enacted by specific programs and organizations, examples of policies and practices to be avoided, discussion of figures regarding homelessness

numbers, a list of the organizations/sites consulted, and the text of BC's Homelessness Act (2008).

- 8. Community Living British Columbia & Inclusion BC. (2020, December). *A report on inclusive housing needs in BC 2020. (24 pages)*. <https://keytohomebc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final-Report-Digital.pdf>**

A Report on Inclusive Housing Needs in B.C. 2020 is a report written by Community Living British Columbia and Inclusion BC. This report outlines the responses of 800 survey respondents regarding opinions on housing needs for persons with disabilities. The survey responses were mainly from those with developmental disabilities, their family members, or members of their support systems. Additional interviews were with people with disabilities and their families.

The report concluded that barriers exist for people with disabilities who hope to live independently, however, housing options such as creating supportive housing were discussed as a desirable option for independent living. The findings serve as an informational guide for housing providers and local governments who wish to integrate inclusive perspectives into their planning.

- 9. Community Living British Columbia & Inclusion BC. (2018). *“Home is where our story begins...” A report by the Community Living BC and Inclusion BC Inclusive Housing Task Force. (36 pages)*. <https://inclusionbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/IHTF-Report-November-2018.pdf>**

This report documents the efforts of the Inclusion BC and Community Living BC Task Force, which was established to address the scarcity of inclusive housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities and to examine inclusive practices both within British Columbia (BC) and in other jurisdictions. The report defines inclusive housing as a concept that places significant emphasis on community participation and a sense of belonging, comprising five key elements: Choice and Control, Accessibility, Ratio of people with and without disabilities, Diversity, and Sustainability. It recognizes affordability as an integral component of accessibility but highlights the challenges posed by rising



housing costs and the limited financial support provided to Persons With Disabilities (PWD).

The report also outlines four strategy recommendations to be implemented over the next three years, covering data collection, identity and visibility, affordability and finance, and inclusive design. These strategies aim to gather relevant data, engage various stakeholders, support affordable housing initiatives, and promote universal design principles to create more inclusive and accessible housing options for people with developmental disabilities in BC.

**10. Delta Housing Be Mine Society. (n.d.). *Advocacy and public policy for inclusive housing solutions*. Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://deltahbms.com/advocacy-public-policy>**

The Delta Housing Be Mine Society's advocacy and public policy focus on promoting inclusive housing solutions that prioritize choice, integration, and community participation for people with disabilities. Their definition of inclusive housing emphasizes affordability, proximity to community amenities, and physical accessibility while rejecting congregate, segregated, or institutional settings as non-inclusive. The foundation of their approach includes key principles like choice and control, affordability, accessibility, a balanced ratio of people with and without disabilities, diversity, and sustainability. To achieve affordable inclusive housing, they stress the importance of collaborative strategic planning and partnerships involving all levels of government, local businesses, agencies, and individuals and families. This holistic approach aims to create housing solutions that empower individuals with disabilities to choose where they live and integrate seamlessly into their communities.

**11. Delta Housing Be Mine Society. (n.d.). *Inclusive housing models*. Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://deltahbms.com/Housing-Model-Designs>**

The Delta Housing Be Mine Society's resource on "Inclusive Housing Models" provides a comprehensive overview of the diverse forms that inclusive housing can assume within a community context. Inclusive housing, as defined here, aims to offer safe and sustainable living environments for individuals with intellectual disabilities, fostering their full participation in community life and promoting a vision of "good lives in welcoming communities" to ensure a sense of

belonging for historically marginalized individuals with developmental disabilities.

The resource highlights three primary support models endorsed by Community Living B.C.: Supported Living, Shared Living, and Staffed Residential Support, each tailored to address the unique needs and preferences of individuals with intellectual disabilities, further emphasizing the importance of flexibility and choice in the realm of inclusive housing.

- 12. MacLean, R. (2021). *Insufficient: disability assistance is not enough: Experiences accessing and living on Disability Assistance in British Columbia*. (58 pages). <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11y46UWzMlzPgYFd5GD9Bkcl4fd5hQfpH/view> [E-book].**

This e-book delves into the lived experiences of twenty disabled individuals in British Columbia reliant on or attempting to access Disability Assistance Benefits (DAB). Through interviews conducted via various mediums, including writing, phone, and video chat, the book unveils the challenges faced by recipients, highlighting the inadequacy of assistance rates, which remained stagnant for over a decade until a temporary COVID-19 relief benefit. The interviews contained in this book challenge misconceptions about disability support, revealing the disproportionate poverty rates and unmet needs within the disabled community. It exposes the ableist structures that perpetuate segregation and dependency, while also showcasing examples of interdependence and community resilience. Rooted in human rights principles, particularly Canada's commitments under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the project amplifies the voices of those navigating the intersecting challenges of poverty and disability in pursuit of dignity and autonomy.

- 13. Accessible British Columbia Act, SBC 2021, c 19, <https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/21019>, retrieved on 2024-06-12.**

This *Act* sets out responsibilities of the provincial government for accessibility regulations and standards.

14. Province of British Columbia. (n.d.). *Accessible housing: List of resources: Helping communities and individuals make homes more accessible*. (3 pages). Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/about-the-bc-government/accessible-bc/accessibility-2024/docs/accessible-housing.pdf>

This three-page document provides tables briefly describing and linking resources for (1) individuals and homeowners and (2) local governments, builders, and developers, pertaining to accessible housing in BC. These resources include guides for accessible building and adaptation of existing structures, programs for funding renovations, and building codes and standards.

15. Schwan, K., Vaccaro, M. & Baig, K. (2021, September 29). *A new horizon – The Pan-Canadian Women’s Housing and Homelessness Survey*. Women’s National Housing and Homelessness Network. <https://womenshomelessness.ca/a-new-horizon-survey/>

The publication provides a summary of results from the Pan-Canadian Women’s Housing and Homelessness Survey that highlights the disproportionate levels of core housing need among women, girls and gender diverse people and the lack of affordable and appropriate housing that meets their diverse needs. According to the authors, 79% of women and gender diverse people experiencing homelessness or housing need report having a disability. Within this group, 46.4% reported a psychiatric or mental health disability of some kind, 60% reported a physical disability, 38.2% reported a substance use problem, and 22.4% reported some form of cognitive, intellectual, or memory-related disability. The publication’s analysis indicates that having a disability was a significant predictor of negative housing outcomes and homelessness.

16. Tran, P. (2021, July 16). *Accessible housing is lacking in Kelowna, says disabled community members*. *Kelowna Capital News*. <https://www.kelownacapnews.com/community/accessible-housing-is-lacking-in-kelowna-says-disabled-community-members-3216786>

This news article sheds light on the lack of affordable housing in Kelowna by highlighting the struggles that some

residents with disabilities have in finding accessible housing in the city. It mentions that difficulty in finding accessible housing is common throughout British Columbia because most units are not built to accommodate disabled people. The article links the crisis in accessibility with the housing affordability crisis by making mention of the small amount of allowance that those on disability assistance receive (\$375 per month), which is far below average rent prices in the province. The article also mentions a proposal for a fully accessible housing complex that has faced many barriers, including rezoning requirements and an amendment to the Official Community Plan (OCP).

17. **University of British Columbia (UBC). (n.d.). *Resources for students with disabilities*. (n.d.). Retrieved May 1, 2024, from <https://students.ubc.ca/campus-life/equity-diversity-inclusion-resources/resources-disabilities>**

This site is under Student Services at the University of British Columbia and provides information and resources for students with disabilities. It lists resources for students with disabilities such as the Centre for Accessibility, mental health supports including counselling services, course load information, financial aid awards for students with disabilities, and information on campus accessibility.

The University of British Columbia also mentions that students with disabilities or chronic medical conditions can apply to priority on-campus housing if they cannot find housing off-campus that meets their disability-related needs. Priority housing allows students to have year-round housing placements, providing students with safe, accessible and consistent housing.

18. **Wallace, B., Klein, S., and Reitsma-Street, M. (2006, March). *Denied assistance: Closing the front door on welfare in BC*. Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. (69 pages). [https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC\\_Office\\_Pubs/bc\\_2006/denied\\_assistance.pdf](https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/BC_Office_Pubs/bc_2006/denied_assistance.pdf)**

This report critically assesses the changes made to British Columbia's welfare system in 2002, which aimed to reduce the welfare caseload. The study investigates why there was a substantial decrease in the number of people receiving

welfare, explores the experiences of beneficiaries, and examines the consequences for those denied assistance.

Drawing on data obtained through Freedom of Information requests and 42 in-depth interviews with relevant stakeholders, the report reveals that BC's welfare application process discourages, delays, and denies assistance to those in dire need. It challenges the provincial government's assertion that more people are leaving welfare for employment, as the decline in caseload numbers primarily results from fewer individuals accessing assistance due to a drastic drop in the acceptance rate for applicants following legislative changes. The study highlights that the application process is overly complex, often necessitating the help of an advocate, with people with disabilities facing additional hurdles in navigating the system. Consequently, many applicants are pushed into homelessness and increased hardship, undermining their ability to achieve self-sufficiency. The report underscores how the new eligibility rules have led to a rise in homelessness in certain regions and emphasizes the significant barriers to employment and social participation faced by beneficiaries, especially those with disabilities, who make up the majority of welfare cases.



# Manitoba

19. Aasland, K., Hall, H., Driedger, A., & Caperole, A. (2001). *West Broadway housing plan 2021-2026*. West Broadway Community Organization (Winnipeg). (131 pages). <https://westbroadway.mb.ca/files/WB-2021-Housing-Plan.pdf>

A grassroots planning document on the needs and priorities of the West Broadway community (the fifth produced thus far), this work is based on consultations with hundreds of community members. While disability is not a dominant theme, the plan contains a two-page section on "housing for people with disabilities and seniors" (85-86), among other "special populations." The plan notes proximity to clinics and health supports and lower costs of housing as strong draws to this neighbourhood for disabled people and seniors. A need for more mental health supports, as well as for enhanced walking and public transit infrastructure, are also mentioned. One of this plan's ten strategies (Strategy F) explicitly mentions the needs of disabled people, including giving preference to housing developments which meet access needs and running workshops and developing resources for landlords and tenants regarding mental health needs and crisis response.

20. **Accessible housing crisis will reach breaking point, says housing co-ordinator.** (2016, March 7). *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/accessible-housing-crisis-1.3479171>

News story on the shortage of accessible housing in Manitoba and a lag in the implementation of universal design. Includes interviews with Ten Ten Sinclair's accessible housing coordinator and with a transitional housing resident unable to find permanent housing.

21. **Association for Community Living – Manitoba.** (n.d.). *A home of my own: A planning guide for individuals, parents and agencies in the community*. (44 pages). [https://www.aclmb.ca/resources/files/A\\_Home\\_of\\_My\\_Own.pdf](https://www.aclmb.ca/resources/files/A_Home_of_My_Own.pdf)

This undated, illustrated guide was produced by the Community Living Association of Manitoba to offer guidance

through reflection for people who are planning a move into a new living situation. While the source implies that it is targeted toward people with intellectual disabilities and those who support them, this plain-language work is potentially applicable to a wider audience. The emphasis of the guide is on presenting the range of housing and support options available, while helping the reader to clarify their own needs, values, and preferences.

The document includes a four-page workbook-style section with questions to help the guide's user think carefully about their housing-related choices.

- 22. Badiuk, E., & Carter, T. (1991). *Rental housing in rural Manitoba: Current issues and future prospects*. University of Winnipeg, Institute for Urban Studies. (210 pages).  
<https://winnspace.uwinnipeg.ca/bitstream/handle/10680/1029/186-1991-BadiukCarter-RentalHousingRuralIMB-WEB.pdf>**

Rural rental housing needs in Manitoba are the focus of this report, which includes considerations of policies and programs, supply and demand, and other issues and concerns. Extensive quantitative data are pulled together from various sources, including data on specific rural communities in the province. Disability, physical access needs, and other supportive requirements are granted very minimal attention, with considerably more given to the housing needs of seniors, though primarily in terms of housing affordability rather than physical access. According to the authors, "only a relatively few social housing units (377) are targeted for households with special needs (persons with handicaps such as the mobility- or hearing-impaired). Few (25.5% or 96) of these units are located in centres with less than 10,000 people" (2). Badiuk and Carter further identify concerns with the uneven distribution of this housing: "Of the 377 Special Use Units within the province, 373 (99.2%) are located in either Winnipeg (278), Neepawa (50) or Flin Flon (45)" (41), suggesting that many rural Manitoba communities lack accessible and/or supportive rental housing options for disabled people.

23. Barlett, J. G., Sanguins, J., Chartrand, F., Carter, S., Temmer, J.; McKay, D. (2012). *'There's no place like home': The experience of Metis aging in place*. Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF), Health & Wellness Department & MMF Northwest Region. (127 pages).  
[https://www.mmf.mb.ca/wcm-docs/docs/departments-health-wellness/theres\\_no\\_place\\_like\\_home\\_-\\_the\\_experience\\_of\\_metis\\_aging\\_in\\_place\\_full\\_report\\_final\\_december\\_2012.pdf](https://www.mmf.mb.ca/wcm-docs/docs/departments-health-wellness/theres_no_place_like_home_-_the_experience_of_metis_aging_in_place_full_report_final_december_2012.pdf)

This Manitoba Métis Federation report explores Métis seniors' needs and experiences regarding housing and related supports. Research was conducted with Métis seniors and caregivers in four rural communities. Health- and disability-related needs described in the report include home maintenance assistance, renovations and upgrades for mobility needs, transportation to allow seniors to remain in existing rural housing, and congregate living facilities located close to home communities.

24. Bernas, K., Cooper, S., Dirks, Y., Fernandez, L., MacKinnon, S., Nino, & Maes, C. (2023, September). *A social housing action plan for Manitoba*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office & Manitoba Right to Housing Coalition. (63 pages).  
<https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2023/09/MB%20Social%20Housing.pdf>

This report explores the current state of social housing in Manitoba as of 2023, including comparisons with social housing in other countries. It also calls upon the government to enact specific changes. The authors give some attention to intersections between poverty, housing, and other social categories/identities, including gender and Indigeneity. Disability is conspicuous by its absence, mentioned only in passing --specifically, people with disabilities, addictions, and mental health -- and disability does not figure explicitly in the report's recommendations, beyond a brief mention of a need for supports for people with addictions and mental health needs.

25. Brandon, J. (2016). *Building a community asset: The ongoing need for social housing in Manitoba*. Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. (23 pages).

[https://spcw.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Building-a-community-asset\\_2016\\_Web.pdf](https://spcw.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Building-a-community-asset_2016_Web.pdf)

Stressing the need for more and better-quality social housing in Manitoba, this report grants very limited attention to housing access for disabled people. Only two sentences in the report are devoted to disability needs, specifically in relation to physical accessibility: "New public housing in Manitoba is built to higher standards of accessibility. Between 2007 and 2013, 75 existing units converted to either the visitable standard, including a zero-step entrance, wider passages and wheelchair access to a bathroom, or made accessible including further modifications and 884 visitable units were constructed through public contributions" (16). Housing is also mentioned in passing as a social determinant of health.

26. Bernas, K., & MacKinnon, S. (2009). *The view from here: Manitobans call for a poverty reduction plan*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba. (76 pages).

[https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/reports/docs/poverty\\_reduction\\_plan\\_fullreport\\_052809.pdf](https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/reports/docs/poverty_reduction_plan_fullreport_052809.pdf)

In this report, authors Bernas and MacKinnon argue for the necessity of a Manitoba-specific poverty-reduction plan, and consider similar plans developed for other Canadian jurisdictions. Endorsed by seventy organizations in the province, this document advocates for programs and policies to reduce poverty throughout the population, but also includes a call for a targeted reduction of poverty (25% by 5 years; 50% by ten years) among disabled Manitobans specifically. The 2006 shelter allowance rate of \$285 is observed to be far too low to meet basic housing needs. Foregrounding a social-determinants-of-health model, the presence of high rates of specific health-related disabilities (including HIV/AIDS and diabetes) is also noted among Indigenous populations.

Strong disability-informed legislation, provision of a variety of support services (such as home care, "including staff continuity, technical support training, and 24-hour emergency service" [47]), and advocacy for a minimum number of affordable accessible housing units, are among the

measures endorsed in the report.

- 27. Brandon, J. (2022, November 4). *Fast facts: Manitobans with disabilities deserve income supports with dignity.* Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office.**

<https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/fast-facts-manitobans-disabilities-deserve-income-supports-dignity>

A short online commentary discussing the inadequacies of the provincial Disability Support Act, taking into account proposed (modest) increases to existing levels of disability support. “Including Rent Assist,” writes the author, “recipients of the new program would expect to receive just \$15,336 per year.” Housing is highlighted as an area of particular inadequacy, with available housing at these rent levels described as crowded and in disrepair. Other concerns addressed in this commentary include program-eligibility requirements and earned-income deductions. Brandon advocates for a guaranteed liveable basic income as a better, more-just alternative.

- 28. Brandon, J. (2022). *The Winnipeg Street Census 2022: Final Report.* End Homelessness Winnipeg & Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. (25 pages).**

[https://spcw.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WSC\\_FinalReport2022\\_Final\\_reduced.pdf](https://spcw.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WSC_FinalReport2022_Final_reduced.pdf)

This report presents data from the Winnipeg Street Census of over 1250 unhoused people, conducted on May 24 and 25, 2022. Although some key demographics are discussed (age, gender, 2SLGBTQIA+, Indigenous people, newcomers, income, and education), disability is not explicitly identified.

The report does, however, provide statistics on self-reported causes of homelessness, including physical and mental health conditions (3.3% and 6.3%, respectively), substance use (18.3%), and treatment/hospitalization (1.7%) (14). EIA disability benefit is also listed as a source of income by 16.2% of those interviewees identifying as homeless (11).



29. Brandon, J. (2014, January 17). *Winnipeg and Manitoba housing data*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office. (14 pages).

<http://policyfix1.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/14-01-15-winnipeg-and-manitoba-housing-stats2.pdf>

This short document presents key statistics from Statistics Canada and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation on rental housing needs in Manitoba, with an emphasis on rental costs and affordability. Much of the data presented is in table or line-graph format. There is only one mention of disability: a line graph titled, “EIA income and rent as a percentage of income (Person with Disability)” (10), depicting this relationship from 2000 to 2013, with average 1-bedroom rent as a percentage of income increasing over this span of time (from under 70% to almost 90%).

30. Brandon, J., & Hajer, J. (2019, July). *Making space for change: The story of Manitoba’s Rent Assist benefit*. Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. (22 pages).

<https://spcw.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Making-Space-for-Change-The-Story-of-Manitoba-Rent-Assist-Benefit.pdf>

This valuable document examines in detail the history and characteristics of Manitoba’s Rent Assist program for low-income people (available regardless of disability status). Interestingly, disability is virtually absent from the discussion in this document, despite this program’s stated intention to be inclusive of low-income people who are already receiving disability support.

31. Bruce, L. (2020, December 16). *Fast facts: Indigenous-led housing key to pandemic recovery*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba.

<https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/fast-facts-indigenous-led-housing-key-pandemic-recovery>

The intersections of Indigeneity, homelessness, and the Covid-19 pandemic in Winnipeg are highlighted in this brief commentary. (Indigenous people, according to Bruce, face homelessness rates six times the municipal average). Advocating for greater support for Indigenous-led housing initiatives, and mentioning some specific ones, the author identifies homelessness as a “health equity” issue. The commentary notes, “those experiencing homelessness have

higher rates of complicating health factors and disabilities that can place them at greater risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19,” and stresses the need for real housing, not simply shelter spaces, to provide more-adequate health protection.

- 32. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office. (2008, December). *Putting our housing in order: State of the inner city report: 2008*. (152 pages). [https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba\\_Pubs/2008/SIC\\_Report\\_2008.pdf](https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba_Pubs/2008/SIC_Report_2008.pdf)**

This illustrated document, composed of a series of reports, includes an overview of the housing situation in Winnipeg’s inner city, with an emphasis on the affordability of various housing options and the deteriorating conditions of housing in the core; a study of 18 residents’ perspectives and experiences with inner-city housing, including at least one person living in a group home for people with disabilities and several others with chronic illnesses; an examination of the Spence neighbourhood and the activities of the Spence Neighbourhood Association (SNA); and a study of low-income home ownership, with emphasis on SEED Winnipeg’s Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program.

While health and safety issues and concerns are evident throughout these reports, and some other marginalized communities (particularly Indigenous and racialized people) are discussed, disability is named only in passing and physical accessibility of housing is not discussed beyond issues of disrepair.

The individual reports also contain bibliographies.

- 33. Carter, T., Janzen, T., McCullough, S., Shirtliffe, R., & Sinclair E. (2020, January). *City of Winnipeg comprehensive needs assessment*. University of Winnipeg, Institute of Urban Studies. (211 pages). <https://legacy.winnipeg.ca/ppd/Documents/CityPlanning/Housing/ComprehensiveHousingNeedsAssessmentReport/Comprehensive-Housing-Needs-Assessment.pdf>**

This 2020 report, published by the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg, aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of housing needs in Winnipeg, both at the time of the study and into the future. The authors

discuss the housing needs of seniors (accessibility, services/supports, affordability), with concern expressed about an increasing demand for these, giving the aging population; the report also discusses the needs of other select groups (Indigenous people, younger adults, new immigrants). In spite of the document's attention to seniors, explicit inclusion of supportive housing and hospitals, and demographic breakdowns of those facing housing-affordability challenges, disabled people and their access needs are almost completely absent (save for one reference to Universal Design and 'visitability', [188]).

- 34. Cooper, S., Hajer, J., and Plaut, S. (2020, April). *Assisting renters: Manitoba's Rent Assist in the context of Canada's National Housing Strategy*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office. (84 pages). <https://mnpha.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Assisting-Renters-FINAL-2020-10.pdf>**

The adequacy of the Rent Assist provincial program for meeting the needs of low-income people with and without disabilities is critically examined in this report. Physical accessibility is noted to be a factor limiting housing options, though disability otherwise receives minimal attention as a factor in housing access. Most mentions of disability occur in the context of the authors' qualitative research, with interview participants themselves naming disability, physical and mental health, healthcare needs and expenses (especially medication), and medical transportation as personal, family, or community concerns.

One of the document's thirteen recommendations focuses on the need for additional financial support from the federal government for healthcare expenses to allow people to better meet both healthcare and housing needs simultaneously; a national pharmacare program is suggested by the authors as an indirect aid to housing security in this respect.

- 35. Coubrough, J. (2016, May 26). *'Personal care homes not the only answer to seniors boom: Manitoba study*. CBC News. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/supportive-housing-manitoba-study-1.3601383>**

News article on a Manitoba study that found supportive housing provides a “middle option” for housing that reduces the need for personal care-home use by seniors.

- 36. Court approves \$17M settlement over alleged abuse at Manitoba Developmental Centre. (2023, August 17). *CBC News.***

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-developmental-centre-lawsuit-settlement-court-approval-1.6938835>

News article on a settlement for abuse experienced by residents at the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC), a large and now-closing institution housing people labelled with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The settlement includes \$1 million for an endowment to support community living initiatives.

- 37. Craig, T., & Hamilton, B. (2014, August). *In search of mino bimaadiziwin: A study of urban Aboriginal housing cooperatives in Canada.* Partnering for Change, SEED Winnipeg Inc, & Manitoba Research Alliance. (33 pages).**

[https://seedwinnipeg.ca/files/In\\_Search\\_of\\_Mino\\_Bimaa\\_diziwin.pdf](https://seedwinnipeg.ca/files/In_Search_of_Mino_Bimaa_diziwin.pdf)

A study of Indigenous cooperative housing initiatives in Ontario (several sites) and Winnipeg, Manitoba (the Payuk Intertribal Housing Cooperative). Although the report discusses the need for affordability and supports (such as on-site daycare), physical accessibility and disability-related supports are not mentioned. Disability is only referenced briefly, in relation to affordability in Ontario with the aid of that province’s disability support program. The report notes that, paraphrasing the perspective of one study participant from London, Ontario, “Aboriginal people tend to have lower incomes than the rest of the population, so there is a limited capacity for the cooperative to cross-subsidize to address the needs of those with disabilities” (22).

- 38. Details revealed of alleged care home abuse. (2011, April 21). *CBC News.***

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/details-revealed-of-alleged-care-home-abuse-1.1099063>

This news story discusses allegations of abuse at Dawson Trail Opportunities Unlimited, a residential and day facility in Ste. Anne, Manitoba, for adults with intellectual disabilities.

- 39. Distasio, J., Sareen, J., & Isaak, C. (2014). *At Home/Chez Soi project: Winnipeg site final report*. Mental Health Commission of Canada. (42 pages).  
[https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/At2520Home2520Report2520Winnipeg2520ENG\\_0.pdf](https://mentalhealthcommission.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/At2520Home2520Report2520Winnipeg2520ENG_0.pdf)**

This study examines Housing First (HF) as an approach to ending homelessness for Indigenous people with mental health issues in urban Winnipeg. The two-year At Home/Chez Soi project followed 513 participants and compared the outcomes of HF support to existing services, with randomized assignment to either HF or 'Treatment as Usual' (TAU) groups. The HF participants were supported by an Assertive Community Treatment team through Mount Carmel Clinic or one of two Intensive Case Management-based teams through Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre and the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre of Winnipeg, depending on their level of support needs. The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Housing Plus coordinated housing access and educate landlords on cultural awareness and Mental Health First Aid. TAU participants received already-existing services in the community.

The study found (1) that partnerships were successfully cultivated among Indigenous organizations and the governmental and university sectors; (2) that unhoused people in Winnipeg with mental health issues overwhelmingly also experienced physical health issues (99%) and traumatic brain injuries (83%), with the majority also experiencing histories of psychological and transgenerational trauma; and (3) that the success of the HF program required Indigenous-informed culturally appropriate approaches. A significant share of HF participants (45%) remained consistently housed within the last six months the study, compared to only 29% of those in the TAU group, with the housing itself assessed as of equal quality for both groups. The report contains a considerable amount of data, much of it presented through infographics, as well as selected quotes from interview participants concerning healthcare access and other disability-relevant matters.



40. Donner, L., Busch, A., & Fontaine, N. (2002). *Women, income and health in Manitoba: An overview and ideas for action*. Women's Health Clinic (Winnipeg) & Health Canada, Health Promotion and Programs Branch (Manitoba/Saskatchewan Region). Print. (83 pages). University of Winnipeg Library holdings: <https://uwinnipeg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/49522071>

This work explores connections between health and socioeconomic status in the lives of women in Manitoba. Taking a social-determinants-of-health approach, including granting attention to Indigenous women's health, the report names disability only in passing. Housing as a specific focus occupies only one page (48); the authors note that the reduction of federal and provincial funding for non-profit and co-op housing has left those with limited incomes fewer options. The maximum allowable rate for rent for a single person with a disability on social assistance in Manitoba at the time of the report is noted to be \$243, or \$285 if utilities are included. Recommendations for appropriate service and policy changes are included, as well as suggested directions for future research.

41. Drabble, J., & McInnes, S. (2017, March). *Finding her home: A gender-based analysis of the homelessness crisis in Winnipeg*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office. (48 pages). [https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2017/03/Finding\\_Her\\_Home\\_%20low-res.pdf](https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2017/03/Finding_Her_Home_%20low-res.pdf)

Focusing on gender and homelessness in Winnipeg, this report contains data from the Winnipeg Street Census (2015), a summary of findings from interviews with at-risk and homeless women, and an analysis of the existing literature on gender and homelessness. Intersections with Indigeneity, 2SLGBTQIA+ identity, relationship status, and other categories are explored. Mental health is given modest attention; beyond this, disability receives almost no mention.

42. End Homelessness Winnipeg. (2014, January). *What we heard: Perspectives from the community on a long term strategy to end homelessness in Winnipeg*. Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council. (66 pages).

<https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/202109-Backgrounder-What-We-Heard-Coordinated-Access-Mission-Values-Vision-and-Outcomes.pdf>

This report contains the comments that were received from stakeholders during meetings, focus groups, and engagement sessions during the strategy-development process. Disability is not prominent in an explicit way in these findings but is sometimes briefly or obliquely referenced among issues encountered by unhoused people; for example, participants mention mental health concerns, needing support for taking medications, detox and addictions treatment, access to Indigenous healing practices, brain injuries, and undiagnosed learning disabilities. The document is valuable for its diverse first-person and lived-experience perspectives.

43. End Homelessness Winnipeg. (2014, April). *The plan to end homelessness in Winnipeg*. Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council. (80 pages).

[https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/EHW\\_Plan\\_April2014.pdf](https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/EHW_Plan_April2014.pdf)

The result of extensive consultations, this detailed plan was produced by the End Homelessness Community Task Force in Winnipeg, with the goal of mapping out the requirements to end homelessness in Winnipeg over the span of a decade. Composed of representatives from all three levels of government, community organizations, and the private sector, as well as an Indigenous Elders Council, the Task Force's plan emphasizes a person-centred Housing First (HF) model. The impacts of physical and mental disabilities, as well as mental-health issues, developmental disorders, PTSD, substance-use issues, traumatic brain injuries, and other health challenges are recognized as contributors to pathways to homelessness. The many strategies set forth in the plan do not include disability as a named entity, but strongly centre the necessity of appropriate supports to address individuals' needs. The report also names the various persons, organizations, and government bodies involved in this project, provides data on the demographics

of the unhoused population in Winnipeg, and includes a bibliography.

44. **End Homelessness Winnipeg. (2020, June). *Kikinanaw Óma: This is our home here: A strategy to support unsheltered Winnipeggers.* (34 pages).**  
<https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/20200630-Kikinanaw-Oma-Strategy-to-Support-Unsheltered-Winnipeggers.pdf>

This strategy document, focusing on the needs of unhoused and unsheltered people in Winnipeg, gives very minimal attention to disability by name. However, it includes data from the *2018 Winnipeg Street Health Survey* on the health issues experienced by people experiencing homelessness and emphasizes the range of specific needs of this population, which include “low-barrier and supportive housing options” (2). A right-based approach is centred, with the colonial oppression of Indigenous people given attention as key context for their far-disproportionate representation among unhoused and unsheltered people. Strategies and recommendations are presented, including a recommendation to streamline intake and access to EIA and disability benefits for people experiencing homeless (23).

45. **End Homelessness Winnipeg. *Coordinated access.* Retrieved June 11, 2014, from**  
<https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/coordinated-access/>

This webpage provides information and links for Naatamooskawkwin, Winnipeg's Coordinated Access System for housing assistance. Though it is not disability-specific, people with disabilities in need of accessible housing are mentioned among the groups to whom this service may be of particular value. Accessed 22 February 2024.

46. **Erdmann, J. (2015, November). *Lived experiences and perspectives: Women, mental health and housing in Winnipeg.* Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba. (28 pages).**  
[https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2015/12/Lived\\_Experiences\\_Women\\_Mental\\_Health.pdf](https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2015/12/Lived_Experiences_Women_Mental_Health.pdf)

This report presents the results of a qualitative research study looking at the experiences of Winnipeg women with mental health issues who are living in supportive housing. Erdmann, a researcher with lived experience, conducted interviews (6 participants) and focus groups (10 participants, 8 of them men – a choice which the author explains). Themes that emerged in the study include nutritional issues in group homes; imposed limitations on toilet paper, laundry, and bathing; loss of personal belongings; smoking behaviours; and the importance of relationships.

The author's recommendations for change include supporting self-esteem development, fostering community-building activities, providing personal income, and offering accessible support. The report includes some discussion of the supportive housing options available to this community in Winnipeg, and notes that waitlists at the time (2 weeks to a year, depending on the housing type) are a barrier. This document is also valuable for the author's extensive reflections on the challenges and choices involved in doing participatory housing research with this population.

47. Erdmann, J. (2015, December 18). *Fast facts: Lived experience and perspectives: Women, mental health and housing in Winnipeg*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office.

<https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/fast-facts-lived-experience-and-perspectives-women-mental-health-and-housing>

A short commentary focusing on intersections of gender, mental health, and other factors in housing needs in Winnipeg. The content summarizes selected findings from the *Lived experience and perspectives: Women, mental health and housing in Winnipeg* (2015) report, and references the need of many people with mental health issues for supportive-housing options.

48. Finkel, G. (1996). *Feasibility of disability-integrated, universally accessible, urban co-housing in Winnipeg*. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (55 pages).

[https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2018/sc/hl-cmhc/nh17/NH17-241-1996-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2018/sc/hl-cmhc/nh17/NH17-241-1996-eng.pdf)

This document describes a model of disability-integrated co-housing using universal design principles. The author argues

that well-designed co-housing developments can provide accessibility for all people, regardless of abilities or disability type/status, as well as foster community, positive social interactions, and access to local resources. The report, which involved consultations with focus groups, includes recommendations for how such a model might be implemented; it also contains a bibliography, and appendices with detailed focus-group findings and a questionnaire for post-occupancy evaluation by residents.

49. Frankel, S., Brandon, J., Kehler, K., Boakye, A., Erbus, M., Morlock-Tellier, B. (2021, December). *Manitoba: Missed opportunities: Manitoba child and family poverty*. Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. (18 pages). [https://spcw.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/C2000-Report-Card\\_2021\\_Manitoba-Missed-Opportunities.pdf](https://spcw.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/C2000-Report-Card_2021_Manitoba-Missed-Opportunities.pdf)

Housing challenges are recognized by this report to be common accompaniments of child and family poverty in Manitoba. However, the only direct mention of disability is a recommendation to "[i]ncrease EIA benefits for single adults by \$383 per month and for people with disabilities by \$236 per month to bring their incomes to 75% of the Market Basket Measure of poverty so they can afford a place to live and purchase other basic needs like food, winter clothing, and hygiene products" (15).

50. Gessler, S., Maes, C., & Skelton, I. (2011). *The Winnipeg Street Health report 2011*. Main Street Project. (48 pages). <https://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Wpg.St.Health.Report.2011.pdf>

This report presents the results of the Winnipeg Street Health Survey, conducted among unhoused people in Winnipeg during the summer of 2010. The focus of the survey was on health and wellness, including physical health, mental health, specialized areas (such as sexual health, pregnancy, and substance use), as well as use of and barriers to accessing healthcare. Disability is not prominently named in the report, though many of the health conditions examined may be regarded as disability issues. Notably, according to the authors, "the most common source of income for the homeless people we spoke to was Income Support for Persons with Disabilities, a provincial program in Manitoba" (18). Requirements for medical documentation are



also named by participants as a barrier to accessing disability support, as "walk-in [clinic] doctors will not fill in required forms (for example for disability assistance)" (26). The report offers detailed statistics, many quotations from participants, and a variety of recommendations, with the provision of housing identified as the primary means of enhancing the health of unhoused people.

- 51. Grabish, A. (2019, November 25). Manitoba Tories clawing back rental benefit for people with mental disabilities. *CBC News*.  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/portable-housing-benefit-manitoba-1.5373101>**

News story about the Conservative government of Manitoba cutting off the portable housing benefit (PHB) for approximately 550 people with mental health disabilities, due to the government's claim they were receiving more than the cost of their rent when the benefit was combined with Rent Assist payments.

- 52. Gunn, J. P. (1982). *Housing Manitoba's disabled: Case studies of representative housing types*. University of Winnipeg, Institute of Urban Studies. (25 pages).  
<https://winnspace.uwinnipeg.ca/bitstream/handle/10680/1012/078-1982-Gunn-HousingManitobaDisabledHousingTypes-WEB.pdf>**

This 1982 report, third in a three-part series by the same author, presents case studies of seven housing facilities for people with a range of disabilities in Manitoba; these disabilities include physical, intellectual/developmental, mental health/psychiatric, and sensory (the latter including accommodation for members of the Deaf community). Gunn has ranked these examples on a scale of normalization, or proximity to an independent-dwelling norm; from most-normalized to least-normalized, these are: Fokus (independent apartments); an unnamed independent group-living setting; an unnamed group foster home; Ten Ten Sinclair (transitional apartments); the Kiwanis Centre of the Deaf; Fred Douglas Lodge (long-term care); and Selkirk Mental Health Centre (institutional care). The author aims to show the range of available housing alternatives for disabled Manitobans, including services, demographics, architectural features, and costs. Information for this report was gathered

through interviews with resident representatives and administrators.

Gunn notes several concerns regarding housing for disabled people in the province, including a lack of spaces relative to demand, inadequate geographical locations, a need for improved relations with the wider community, operating-cost challenges, limited resident autonomy, and inadequate resident input into facility decisions. Note: some now-outdated language is used throughout.

- 53. Gunn, J. P. (1982). *Profiles of housing alternatives available to Manitoba's disabled*. University of Winnipeg, Institute of Urban Studies. (36 pages).  
<https://winnspace.uwinnipeg.ca/bitstream/handle/10680/916/079-1982-Gunn-ProfilesHousingAlternativesDisabled-WEB.pdf>**

This 1982 report, the second in a series by Gunn, reviews the types of housing available in Manitoba to people with disabilities, organized by disability type (physical, intellectual/developmental, mental health/psychiatric, visual, and hearing). Each housing type is examined in terms of the residential form, services available, number of Manitoba residents living in this type of housing, and level of normalization (proximity in lifestyle to living fully independently in a private residence).

The author's conclusions include observations that housing types are often similar across disability groups, and that people with mental health disabilities and intellectual/development disabilities have a wider range of housing types available to them than those with other types of disabilities. Note: some now-outdated language is used throughout.

- 54. Gunn, J. P. (1983). *Housing for the disabled in Manitoba*. University of Winnipeg, Institute of Urban Studies. Print. (42 pages). University of Winnipeg Library holdings:  
<https://uwinnipeg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/15968974>**

This older report on Manitoba's housing options for adults with disabilities, the first of three in a series by the same author, provides important historical context for subsequent changes. The report is structured according to disability type (physical, intellectual/developmental, mental health, visual,

and auditory), with housing problems commonly encountered by members of each disability group discussed in turn.

Gunn's recommendations include increasing financial support for community housing over institutional settings, placing independent community boards in charge of government-funded housing, and offering education about disability and disabled people to address ableist attitudinal biases among the broader community. Note: some now-outdated language is used throughout the report.

- 55. Hatherly, D. (2000, February 5). 'More harm than good': NDP critic challenges rental benefit clawback for vulnerable tenants. CBC News.**  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/more-harm-than-good-ndp-critic-challenges-rental-benefit-clawback-for-vulnerable-tenants-1.5451879>

News report on evidence from documents, obtained by an NDP FOIA request, that residents with mental-health disabilities who are facing reduction or removal of the portable housing benefit (PHB) are experiencing significant distress, including suicidal ideation.

- 56. Held, Myla D. (2023, August 17). *A survivor's narrative of institutional harms Experienced in Manitoba Developmental Centre and Prisons in Canada*. Master's thesis, University of Winnipeg. (130 pages).**  
<https://hdl.handle.net/10680/2101>, DOI: 10.36939/ir.202308181129.

This oral-history-based Criminal Justice Master's thesis examines the experiences of a Black man named Dwight, who was institutionalized at the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) in 1967 for three years (from the age of eleven), and later entered the correctional system. Held's work is useful for its first-person accounts of violence and sexual assault within the MDC, which were factors contributing to the MDC's eventual (planned) closure in 2024 and the transfer of the remaining residents to community-living settings.

57. Isaak, C., Hinds, A., Steur, T., Nelson, G., & Campos-Ordóñez, P. (2019, February). *2018 Winnipeg Street Health Survey: Final Report*. End Homelessness Winnipeg. (46 pages).

<https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018-Winnipeg-Street-Health-Survey-Final-Report.pdf>

This report presents the findings of the 2018 Winnipeg Street Health Survey, conducted July 10 to October 5, 2018, among unhoused Winnipeggers. Broad in scope, the survey questions include a strong focus on health and well-being, broadly conceptualized. The report includes figures on percentages of unhoused people experiencing pain, needing assistance with personal care, living with a learning disability, reporting chronic health conditions, requiring prescription medications, experiencing mental-health conditions, dealing with substance use, and encountering access barriers to healthcare use. The report includes detailed statistics, many presented through infographics, as well as selected quotations from participants. The results portray Winnipeg's unhoused community as one which faces significant health challenges and access barriers to healthcare and disability supports.

58. Kemp, C. (2023, September 18). 'Brandon needs to improve 'awful' accessibility, says wheelchair user. *CBC News*.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/wheelchair-steets-brandon-accessibility-1.6969239>

News article on the lack of physical accessibility in Brandon, Manitoba, including advocacy for implementation of the Accessibility for Manitobans Act to address this.

59. Klassen, J. (2016, July). *Social housing with supports: The case of WestEnd Commons*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office. (34 pages).

<https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2016/07/WestEnd%20Commons.pdf>

This WestEnd Commons report makes only modest reference to disability, including the presence of six “fully physically accessible” units in the development (14). It also references inaccessibility (broadly defined) as a factor in

some residents' past housing insecurity. Improvements in mental health as a result of living within a caring community and access to addictions support are mentioned as positive features by several residents.

60. Klassen, J. (2018, February 1). ***Subsidized housing with supports needs more support: Lessons from WestEnd Commons***. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office.

<https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/subsidized-housing-supports-needs-more-support>

A short commentary based on the study, *Here we're at home: The WestEnd Commons model of subsidized housing with supports* (2018), emphasizing the positive outcomes of the WestEnd Commons housing project. The content gives some attention to the role of housing in health, especially mental health, using a social-determinants model.

61. Klassen, J. (2018, March). ***“Here we're at home”: The WestEnd Commons model of subsidized housing with supports***. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba Office. (44 pages).

[https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2018/03/WestEnd%20Commons\\_JKlassen.pdf](https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2018/03/WestEnd%20Commons_JKlassen.pdf)

This report is the product of a three-year study of WestEnd Commons, a Winnipeg non-profit, mixed-housing, “intentionally diverse” (11) development, combining 20 units of social housing and 6 units of affordable housing within in a converted Anglican church. Through a partnership with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, five of the units are reserved for people with mental health issues (diagnosed or self-declared). Using an interview-based case-study approach, Klassen examines the well-being of residents, including their mental health, and the roles of social supports and subsidized rents in these outcomes.

Disability is not named in the document, and physical accessibility is not addressed. However, the themes of health and well-being are present throughout, framed in a way that recognizes their many social determinants. Great emphasis is placed on the value of mutual help and social connection among WestEnd Commons residents by the interviewees. The author argues that more-stable financial support is

needed to sustain subsidized housing with social supports. The report contains many quotations from interviews with residents; a bibliography is also provided.

- 62. Klos, N. (2000). *Accessible downtown residential communities: A case study of Winnipeg, Manitoba*. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Print. (94 pages). University of Winnipeg Library holdings: <https://uwinnipeg.on.worldcat.org/oclc/46616540>**

Report on a study that aimed to identify housing and community needs of people with physical and sensory disabilities, using interviews and focus groups. Klos proposes that appropriate housing in downtown Winnipeg could help to revitalize the city centre and provide access to local amenities for disabled people. Specific strategies for these changes are also discussed.

- 63. Lytwyn, A. (2014, September 9). Housing for people with disabilities tough in rural Manitoba. *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/housing-for-people-with-disabilities-tough-in-rural-manitoba-1.2759703>**

Opinion piece on the difficulty of accessing independent living options in rural communities in Manitoba, focusing on the disabled author's first-hand experience in the small community of Winnipegosis.

- 64. Lytwyn, A. (2015, May 24). 'Province must spend more to show Manitobans with disabilities where the heart is: At home. *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/province-must-spend-more-to-show-manitobans-with-disabilities-where-the-heart-is-at-home-1.3085674>**

Opinion piece on author's first-hand experience with inadequate home-care funding in Winnipegosis, MB.



65. MacLean, C. (2022, November 23). **Astum Api Niikinaahk: Winnipeg's tiny homes project getting ready to welcome its 1st residents.** *CBC News*.  
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/winnipeg-tiny-homes-project-nearly-complete-1.6660920>

A CBC News story on Astum Api Niikinaahk, a new Indigenous-led, tiny-house community in Winnipeg for unhoused people. Four of the 22 units are noted to be accessible, and treatment services for substance use and health needs, as well as cultural supports, will be made available to residents on site.

66. McCracken, M., & Watson, G. (2004, February). *Women need safe, stable, affordable housing: A study of social, private and co-op housing in Winnipeg.* Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence & Women's Health Clinic. (50 pages).  
<https://safehousingpartnerships.org/sites/default/files/2017-01/safeHousingComplete.pdf>

This report is based on a study that was undertaken in response to the federal, provincial, and municipal governments' perceived neglect of Winnipeg women's unique and disproportionate needs for housing support -- especially after the introduction of the 2003 Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI), which names disability, but not gender, among its targets. The gender-based analysis used in this study, based on three focus groups (private, public, and cooperative housing) with a total of 29 women, takes disability into account as an intersecting factor in housing access and experiences. While "7/10 of the women in the cooperative [focus group] identified as having a disability" (12), and some participants were on disability support, disability receives modest attention in this report. Exceptions are the researchers' observations that poverty and housing issues can contribute to stress, and, in turn, to poor health; that requiring annual reassessments of disability by a physician for disability support is a barrier; that prescription medications can pose an additional drain on people's financial resources; and that there is a need for accessible units in co-op housing. Several of the report's recommendations directly engage with disability, including 3.B: "Restructure social assistance and disability assistance policies to meet the basic housing needs of recipients" (22-23), and 3.C: "Eliminate the annual reporting for people with disabilities" (23).

This report is valuable for its exploration of women's needs regarding housing, with some attention to the specific needs of disabled women and a strong focus on co-op housing in general.

- 67. Manitoba Community Services, Research and Planning division. (1984, October). *Report on the evaluation of Manitoba Marathon community residences for mentally retarded adults*. Print. (22 pages). Manitoba Legislative Library holdings:**  
<https://ablb.mb.catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/opac/record/109895114?locg=1101>

This is an older report on a multi-site housing project for adults with intellectual disabilities funded by Manitoba Community Services and the Canadian Association for Community Living, Manitoba Division. These small community group homes were established in 1981, and the statistical analyses presented in this report tentatively suggests that living in these smaller residences was “associated with higher rates of acquisition of the adaptive educational behaviours and skills required for successful functioning in community settings” (1), compared to living in larger congregate settings outside of this housing project. A large portion of the document is devoted to data tables. Note: the report uses some now-outdated language to refer to people with intellectual disabilities.

- 68. Masi, J. (2003, September). *Housing now!: Meeting Manitoba's needs*. Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (27 pages).**  
[https://www.amm.mb.ca/download/reports/Report\\_Final\\_Report-Housing.pdf](https://www.amm.mb.ca/download/reports/Report_Final_Report-Housing.pdf)

This report stems from an Association of Manitoba Municipalities conference held on April 12, 2003 in Winnipeg, convened to identify housing issues related to (1) affordable housing and (2) the housing needs of seniors and people with disabilities, within the province's various municipalities. Facilitated group discussion on these topics identified problems as well as proposed solutions. Themes that emerged concerning the housing needs of seniors and disabled people include needs for flexible design for

changing abilities, funding for renovations and maintenance, improved access to information on available programs, coordination with health-care services, and managing housing supply for local relevance. Solutions proposed by participants include use of adaptable housing designs, increased financing options, improved housing technologies to reduce upkeep costs, introduction of mobile clinical services for in-home care, and increased local control of housing that is currently under provincial jurisdiction. Participants also noted differences in the effectiveness of programs depending on community size, a lack of available services in housing locations, and a need to educate consumers about cost-effective housing technologies.

The report includes a four-page Housing for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Discussion Paper, as well as lists of presenters and participants/municipalities.

**69. Mental-health patients in housing 'crisis': agency. (2007, March 29). *CBC News*.**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/mental-health-patients-in-housing-crisis-agency-1.671685>

News article discussing the shortage of housing for people with mental-health disabilities in Manitoba, in wake of two violent deaths at Madison Memorial Lodge, a low-cost downtown-Winnipeg complex with many disabled tenants.

**70. Osei-Yeboah, E. (2023, March). *Progress on End Homelessness: Winnipeg's 5-year plan (2020-2025): Quarter 1 and 2 updates (April 1, 2022-September 30, 2022)*. End Homelessness Winnipeg. (15 pages).**

[https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/EHWs-5-Year-Plan-Monitoring\\_Q-12-Updates\\_Mar-2023-1.pdf](https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/EHWs-5-Year-Plan-Monitoring_Q-12-Updates_Mar-2023-1.pdf)

This document outlines the involvement of the non-profit organization End Homelessness Winnipeg in a wide variety of housing projects, including those supporting Indigenous people, women and children fleeing domestic violence, and sexual minorities. There is little indication of involvement with disability-targeted housing specifically, however. (This is the most recent in a series of similar documents.)

71. Owen, M., & Watters, C. (2005, January). *Housing for assisted living in inner-city Winnipeg: A social analysis of housing options for people with disabilities*. Winnipeg Inner City Research Alliance. (89 pages). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/44320845> [Requires institutional JSTOR access.].

A detailed research report investigating issues, needs, and concerns related to a planned downtown Winnipeg assisted-living facility at 340 Princess for adults with disabilities aged 18-55, a project undertaken by the Housing for Assisted Living (HAL) Committee. The study is based on interviews with thirty people, including those with complex health and housing needs (twenty), disabled people already living in the downtown core (five), and representatives from relevant agencies (five). Participant-identified concerns include a shortage of accessible and affordable assisted-living housing, a need for various supports and assistance within the residence, a lack of proximity to grocery stores, and safety and physical accessibility in the area (the Exchange District neighbourhood). These concerns were counterbalanced by identified benefits, including good access to cultural amenities, health services, green space, and socializing opportunities.

The report includes recommendations for addressing the concerns of potential residents, as well as contextual information on disability and housing in Winnipeg and an extensive list of references.

72. *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act, SM 2013, c 40*, <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/a001-7.php?lang=en>, retrieved on 2024-06-12

Key provincial disability legislation, which takes an approach to disability access that recognizes the multi-fold nature of access barriers (physical, architectural, information/communication, attitudinal, technological, and policy/practice). Notably, the Act contains an exclusion for many private residences: “6(4) An accessibility standard may not impose any requirements on the owner or occupier of residential premises that contain one or two dwelling units.”

- 73. Province of Manitoba, Accessibility Office. (2024). *A history of accessibility in Manitoba: Timeline.* <https://accessibilitymb.ca/about-us/manitoba-accessibility-office.html>**

Though not housing-specific, this Government-produced timeline of key events (from 1998 onwards) regarding accessibility-related plans and measures in Manitoba is useful for situating reports, legislation, and other developments in historical context at the provincial level.

- 74. Province of Manitoba, Disabilities Issues Office. (2004). *Report on 2004 Housing and Disabilities Forum = Rapport relatif au Forum sur le logement et les personnes handicapées de 2004.* (2004). Booklet. Print. (16 pages). Manitoba Legislative Library holdings: <https://ablb.mb.catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/opac/record/107466012?locg=1101>**

This illustrated bilingual booklet summarizes the recommendations which emerged from a provincial forum on Housing and Disabilities, held in Winnipeg on April 8, 2004. Participants included disabled community members, government and NGO representatives, and “expert advisors.” Recommendations are grouped into (1) financial access, (2) availability/usability, and (3) supportive housing. Some notable recommendations include: financing culturally appropriate housing for disabled Indigenous people; creating a central registry to match available units with disabled people seeking housing; ensuring all new publicly funded housing adheres to ‘visitable design’ standards for access; updating building codes and zoning legislation; and expanding available supportive-housing units and options. (The full report is titled *2004 Housing and Disabilities Forum: A Government of Manitoba Community Consultation, April 8, 2004*, which appears to only be preserved in draft form.)

- 75. Province of Manitoba, Disabilities Issues Office. (2004, April 8). *Forum on Housing and Disabilities 2004: A Government of Manitoba community consultation.* (31 pages). [Obtained from Manitoba Accessibility Office; the only existent copy is in draft form.]**

This key community-consultation report explores disability and housing in relation to three “thematic areas”: financial

access (affordability), availability and useability of general housing stock, and supportive housing. The forum, with 74 participants, was held in Winnipeg on April 8, 2004; arising out of a perceived need during the province's 2003 Round Table on Disability, the event's goal was to generate specific policy recommendations. The report contains recommendations related to each of the three areas, including increasing the accessible housing supply (particularly for disabled Indigenous people), introducing tax concessions, promoting 'visitable design', establishing a universal-design institute, distributing supportive housing throughout the community, making changes to funding support, and supporting deinstitutionalization, among other measures.

A very useful appendix outlines "existing policies and programs" related to housing and disability; the names/organizations of consultation participants are also provided in the report. A 16-page bilingual summary booklet is also available under the title, *Report on 2004 Housing and Disabilities Forum = Rapport relatif au Forum sur le logement et les personnes handicapées de 2004*.

- 76. Province of Manitoba, Disabilities Issues Office. (2009, June). *Opening doors: Manitoba's commitment to persons with disabilities: A discussion paper*. (2009, June). (48 pages). [https://accessibilitymb.ca/resources/opening\\_doors\\_report.pdf](https://accessibilitymb.ca/resources/opening_doors_report.pdf)**

This discussion paper, from the Manitoba Government's Disabilities Issues Office (now the Manitoba Accessibility Office) revisits the province's 2001 *Full Citizenship* policy commitments. The paper reflects on areas of progress and explores paths for further development in meeting the needs of disabled people in Manitoba, including the results of roundtable consultations. The first 2009/2010 commitment in the document is to housing, specifically, "[t]o improve the availability of quality housing for persons with disabilities that is affordable, accessible, supportive and safe" (10). Specific measures (either already implemented or planned) include the introduction of the Manitoba Shelter Benefit, increases to Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) room and board rates, consultations with builder and prospective users concerning accessibility of physical structures, renovations to



existing public-housing units, and a collection of specific initiatives under the umbrella of the Project Safe Home Strategy. Some attention is also given to supportive housing to meet the needs of those with mental health and addictions-related needs. A number of specific recent and planned housing projects are also briefly described.

- 77. Province of Manitoba, Family Services and Housing. (2001). *Children's Special Services: Supports for families who have children with developmental and/or physical disabilities*. Pamphlet. Print. (4 pages). Manitoba Legislative Library holdings: <https://ablb.mb.catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/opac/record/128706435?locg=1101>**

A bilingual informational pamphlet on features of and eligibility for the Children's Special Services program, intended for families of children with disabilities. While most of the program is not housing-specific, it includes access to funding for accessibility-related home renovations.

- 78. Province of Manitoba, Family Services and Housing. (2001). *Full Citizenship: A Manitoba provincial strategy on disability*. Print. (44 pages). University of Manitoba Libraries holdings: [https://search.lib.umanitoba.ca/permalink/01UMB\\_INST/gnigpm/alma99133474610001651](https://search.lib.umanitoba.ca/permalink/01UMB_INST/gnigpm/alma99133474610001651)**

This 2001 White Paper sets out a self-described Action Plan for "full citizenship" for disabled people, formulated in relation to four criteria: income supports, access to government, disability supports, and employment. Housing is addressed only very briefly in relation to a need for supports such as home care and a general preference for independent-living style arrangements (30). In this regard, *Full Citizenship* stands in marked contrast to the 2009 *Opening Doors* paper (issued by the provincial Disabilities Issues Office, whose establishment is proposed in this document), which situates housing needs foremost among disability-related concerns.

- 79. Province of Manitoba, Family Services and Housing. (2009, May 20). *ALL Aboard: Manitoba's poverty reduction and social inclusion strategy*. (8 pages). Canada Commons holdings (requires institutional access):**

<https://canadacommons.ca/artifacts/1211957/all-aboard/1765061/>

This illustrated publication is a 2009 precursor to the 2012 *ALL Aboard: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy* document. It sets out a four-fold model, identifying (1) housing, (2) education + jobs + income support, (3) families, and (4) accessible services as key targets for enhancement. Disability is somewhat less prominently positioned in comparison to the 2012 iteration, though there are several mentions or intimations of it (e.g., “We recognize that people face unique challenges related to gender, race, culture and ability” [2]). Most directly, the document states, “Building on the successful Full Citizenship strategy for persons with disabilities, Manitoba will be announcing a new province-wide strategy for persons with disabilities in 2009” (5), and, interestingly, groups this initiative with other programs under a “Strong, Healthy Families” subheading, leaving the demographic focus of this planned program unclear.

- 80. Province of Manitoba, Family Services and Housing. (2012, May). *ALL Aboard: Manitoba's poverty reduction and social inclusion Strategy*. (12 pages). [https://web.archive.org/web/20140107205610/http://www.gov.mb.ca/allaboard/pubs/strategy\\_paper.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20140107205610/http://www.gov.mb.ca/allaboard/pubs/strategy_paper.pdf)**

An illustrated Government of Manitoba publication from May 2012 promoting their “ALL Aboard” poverty reduction strategy, issued during a period of NDP leadership of the province. (This document was preceded by a similar one in 2009.) While the focus is on province-wide poverty reduction comprehensively, the document references persons with disabilities as one at-risk group (12.7% of disabled Manitobans lived in poverty in 2009, versus 9.7% of Manitobans overall), explicitly names “systemic barriers” (1) and a “lack of accessible options” (2) as contributing factors, and identifies several specific initiatives aimed at disabled Manitobans. Four indicators for progress on housing-related issues are identified: the number of social-housing units

supported by Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corp. (MHRC); new households served by MHRC; households in “Core Housing Need”; and a sense of community belonging. A need for accessible housing is recognized, including housing that meets the needs of aging residents of the province, but this is not explored in detail and disability is not directly referenced here.

Although it provides little content on housing and disability combined, this document is useful for demonstrating the NDP-led government’s recognition of disability and access needs as relevant considerations in social housing and related policies. (A related ALL Aboard document, “Action Plan,” produced in 2013 following public consultations, is also valuable to read in conjunction with this publication.)

- 81. Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Housing and Community Development. (2009). *Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program for persons with disabilities*. Pamphlet. Print. Manitoba Legislative Library holdings:**

<https://ablb.mb.catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/opac/record/107458257?locg=1101>

Double-sided bilingual informational pamphlet on eligibility criteria for the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP). This program provides financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans to homeowners and landlords for accessibility-related modifications.

- 82. Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Housing and Community Development. (2011). *HomeWorks! Our \$378 million investment plan*. [No longer available online; obtained by request from Manitoba Housing and Community Development.]**

Website content that outlines a series of specific targets for provincial action as part of a two-year housing plan, including updates on the status of these as of June 2011. While not specifically disability oriented, these commitments include funding for accessibility renovations and housing supports for people with mental health issues.

- 83. Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Housing and Community Development. (2013). *ALL Aboard action plan: Targeted supports for those most in need.* (10 pages). University of Winnipeg digital access: <https://canadacommons-ca.uwinnipeg.idm.oclc.org/artifacts/1194743/action-plan/1747868/>**

This document is linked to the same provincial government initiative as the 2009 and 2012 *ALL Aboard* publications. This one, however, was produced by Manitoba's Housing and Community Development office and focuses more directly on housing-related aspects of the plan, taking direction from public consultations that were held in spring of 2013. Notably, the document contains many quotations from participants in the consultation survey with lived experience of poverty.

The role of mental health issues and addictions in relation to poverty is more prominent in this document compared to 2009 and 2012, as a result of findings during the public consultations. The relative lack of progress on poverty reduction among disabled people is also given a specific mention: "We also know that, compared to other groups (ex: seniors, Aboriginal people), the poverty rate among Manitobans with disabilities has been falling far more slowly. From 2002 to 2011, the incidence of low income among this group decreased by 1.5 per cent. In 2011, 13.0 per cent of Manitobans with disabilities were living in low income, as compared to 11.5 per cent for the general population" (3).

This publication discusses many specific ongoing and forthcoming initiatives on the part of the Manitoba Government, which are aimed at reducing poverty and providing various forms of support to "those most in need" (1). Overall, it provides a useful snapshot of the provincial government's social-service initiatives at this point in time, with limited attention to disability.

- 84. Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Housing and Community Development. (2015). *Ellice Place: 555 Ellice Avenue: Age in place with affordable assisted living.* Brochure. (4 pages). <https://www.gov.mb.ca/housing/progs/pdf/shal/555-ellice/555-ellice-place-brochure-eng-access.pdf>**

An illustrated brochure for potential residents, describing and depicting 555 Ellice Avenue, a then-new assisted-living social-housing building in downtown Winnipeg. The text stresses affordability and the ability to “age in place” in the community; it positions the development as a “progressive housing initiative” (3). Fees, services, and amenities are outlined.

- 85. Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Housing and Community Development & Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. (2009). *The Manitoba Shelter Benefit for persons receiving Employment and Income Assistance*. Pamphlet. Pamphlet. Print. (1 page). Manitoba Legislative Library holdings: <https://ablb.mb.catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/opac/record/107458292?locg=1101>).**

A two-sided bilingual informational pamphlet on eligibility for the Manitoba Shelter Benefit, a modest rent supplement (up to \$35/month) for those who are receiving EIA if they have a disability or are a low-income adult without dependent children.

- 86. Province of Manitoba, Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation. (2009). *The Manitoba Shelter Benefit for persons with a disability = Programme d'allocations-logement du Manitoba pour les personnes handicapées*. Pamphlet. (1 page, 2 sides). [https://www.gov.mb.ca/housing/pubs/shltr\\_ben\\_disabilities.en.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/housing/pubs/shltr_ben_disabilities.en.pdf)**

This single-sheet informational pamphlet provides an overview of the Manitoba Shelter Benefit (MSB) rent supplement for those who are potentially eligible, including disabled people, seniors, and families. Restrictions based on income level and other factors are outlined in plain language. It provides a useful overview of the program as of its date of publication.

- 87. Right to Housing Coalition (Manitoba). (2023). 2023 provincial election campaign pillars. (4 pages).**

[https://righttohousing.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/R2H\\_Campaign-Pillars\\_Final.pdf](https://righttohousing.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/R2H_Campaign-Pillars_Final.pdf)

A short advocacy document outlining five proposed election pillars for addressing the housing crisis, issued by the Right to Housing Coalition in September 2023, prior to the provincial election and directed toward all parties. Disability is only mentioned in passing (people with disabilities are noted to be among those in need of low-cost housing; mental health and addictions are observed to be linked to poverty). Accessible and supportive housing needs are not referenced.

- 88. Rude, D. & Thompson, K. (2001, November). *Left in the cold: Women, health, and the demise of social housing policies*. Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence, Project #35. (73 pages). University of Winnipeg Library digital holdings:**

<https://canadacommons-ca.uwinnipeg.idm.oclc.org/artifacts/1184549/left-in-the-cold/1737673/>

This report utilizes a gender-based analysis to explore the connection between housing policies and women's health. The researchers interviewed a total of thirteen women living in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Regina, Saskatchewan, who had a history of precarious housing, as well as eight professionals in housing- and planning- related roles. Disability and chronic health issues are acknowledged as requiring attention regarding women and housing, and housing insecurity is noted to worsen women's health status. Disability receives some direct attention as well, with the authors observing that, "regardless of gender, people with disabilities are considerably more likely to be in need of housing than people who do not have disabilities" (11). Among the many suggested changes to housing policy and practice, the authors propose that an advocate is needed to coordinate among the various agencies that offer supportive housing to disabled people.

The report also includes many quotations from interview participants and a review of the relevant literature over a period of roughly fifteen years prior to the study.



89. Sale, T. (1983). *Unfinished business: Residential care homes in Manitoba*. Residential Care Working Group (Manitoba) & Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. Print. (42 pages). Manitoba Legislative Library holdings: <https://ablb.mb.catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/opac/record/125925339?locg=1101>

An older report on the residential care system in Manitoba for “vulnerable adults” (not specifically defined by diagnosis/condition). The report, based on a combination of community consultations and other submissions “of varying sorts” (3), reviews the status of residential care homes and other forms of housing occupied by vulnerable adults, with supporting quantitative data. Sale describes the system as “relatively informal at present” (12), noting that the imposition of registration on such facilities only dates back to 1981, and that there is a shortage of housing for the “aged infirm/infirm,” who lack resources for support once in care homes (14). An overall shift towards less-restrictive community settings is observed, and gaps in existing systems and services are noted.

A set of twelve specific changes to the residential care system are proposed, including a significant expansion of home-care services to accommodate the needs of all vulnerable adults, regardless of diagnostic label; the application of standards to adult housing similar to those then in place for children’s group homes; the establishment of a new directorate for “care of the aged-infirm/infirm” (30); and alterations to care allowances, including the ability for family members to be compensated for caregiving and permission for adults to use funds to purchase third-party care services.

The report also contains useful diagrams of service relationships within the then-current system (20) as well as within the report’s proposed model (24). Note: some outdated language concerning intellectual and mental health disabilities is used throughout the report.

90. Schibler, B. & McEwan-Morris, A. (2006, November). *"Strengthening our youth": Their journey to competence and independence: A Report on youth leaving Manitoba's child welfare system.* Office of the Children's Advocate Manitoba. (99 pages). <https://manitobaadvocate.ca/wp-content/uploads/Strengthening-Our-Youth-Final-2006.pdf>

This report investigates the circumstances of young people within the Manitoba child welfare system, particularly their experiences and needs as they transition out of care. The report notes that 28% of youth in care have a diagnosed disability (with intellectual and mental-health disabilities being the most common, especially among First Nations youth). Manitoba has supports specifically aimed at youth with disabilities and mental health concerns; however, a need for programs to support youth with disabilities who are not eligible for adult assisted-living programs is noted, and the authors advocate for designated housing units specifically for youth (disabled or not) who are leaving care.

While the intersection of disability and housing needs is not a major focus of this report, disabilities (especially mental health concerns) are clearly at play in the identified needs and suggested supports.

91. Scruby, L., & Beck, R. R. (2007). *Including low-income women with children: Programs and policy directions.* Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence. (51 pages). <http://www.pwhce.ca/pdf/includingLowIncome.pdf> [Note: File link generates security alert, but is functional].

A study examining the health of low-income women with children, based on focus groups, held in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba, with low-income women themselves and with service providers. Housing is identified as a key concern, particularly as an important social determinant of health. However, disability is not named and accessible housing needs are not explicitly discussed, including in the recommendations for action.

92. Singleton, J. W. (2004, June). *Investigation of Hydra House Ltd. and a Review of the Related Department of Family Services and Housing Financial Accountability Framework*. Office of the Auditor General Manitoba. (67 pages).

[https://www.oag.mb.ca/\\_files/ugd/b32b68\\_2c90d2eaa6d7437cbc731bfba48c76f2.pdf](https://www.oag.mb.ca/_files/ugd/b32b68_2c90d2eaa6d7437cbc731bfba48c76f2.pdf)

This report by the Auditor General to the Government of Manitoba details the investigation of Hydra House, a for-profit company that received public funding to provide a comprehensive range of community-based programs and services for disabled people of all ages, including children's residential care, adult community living, adult mental-health facilities, specialized foster care, and alternative care services. Plagued by corruption, the company's financial matters are explored in this report, with a conclusion that there was considerable misspending.

Following the release of this report, Manitoba cut ties with Hydra House, and St. Amant assumed responsibility for 14 Hydra House facilities.

93. Smirl, E. (2016, September 13). *Summary evaluation of The Madison congregate housing*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office. (12 pages).

<https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2016/09/Madison%20Summary.pdf>

A study of experiences with The Madison, an 85-unit recovery-based congregate living initiative run by Winnipeg's Siloam Mission. Smirl's research involved qualitative analysis of data about residents and their experiences and interviews with workers, in addition to a cost analysis. Increased mental-health supports are mentioned as a specific need of the residents, though disability and physical accessibility are not otherwise referenced.

94. Smirl, E. (2019). *Supporting Vulnerable Tenants in Non-Profit Housing*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba. (20 pages).

[https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2019/09/Supporting\\_Vulnerable\\_Tenants.pdf](https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2019/09/Supporting_Vulnerable_Tenants.pdf)

A key document exploring social housing and "vulnerable" tenants, including people with disabilities, mental-health issues, chronic health conditions, and substance use. Smirl explores what has already been successful in Manitoba and elsewhere, and what is still needed, including more accessible units and social supports specifically for disabled people and people with mental-health conditions. According to this report, exceptionally high rates of schizophrenia, mood disorders, and suicide have been observed among Manitoba's social-housing residents (7). The cost effectiveness of providing supports over eviction is also noted (4).

- 95. Social Planning Council of Winnipeg & Make Poverty History Manitoba. (2008). *The time for patience is over: Toward a poverty reduction plan for Manitoba: Discussion paper.* (9 pages). <https://makepovertyhistorymb.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/mphm-discussion-paper-080909.pdf>**

The contents of this discussion paper were developed by Make Poverty History Manitoba, a coalition of advocacy groups in the province. 'Housing', 'disability supports', and 'health and mental health' are identified as three of the eight interconnected areas where targeted improvements are needed. Among the paper's many specific recommendations are the reestablishment of the Working Group on Housing for Individuals with a Disability, improved home-care services, and educating landlords, developers, and others involved in housing about disability issues.

- 96. St. Amant Centre to take over Hydra House. (2005, April 21). *CBC News.* <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/st-amant-centre-to-take-over-hydra-house-1.568067>**

A news report on the Manitoba Government's decision to hand control of Hydra House residences for people with disabilities over to St. Amant, following gross financial mismanagement by Hydra House.

97. Stienstra, D., & Wiebe, R. (2004). *Finding our way home: Housing options in inner-city Winnipeg for people with disabilities who are dying*. Canadian Centre on Disability Studies & Winnipeg Inner City Research Alliance. Print. (105 pages). Manitoba Legislative Library holdings: <https://ablb.mb.catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/opac/record/107452534?locg=1101>

This detailed report explores palliative housing needs among disabled people in Winnipeg's core. The research entailed interviews with 24 disabled people (more than half of them Indigenous) who were experiencing terminal health conditions. Intersections among poverty, inner-city residence, disability, health, gender, and Indigeneity are recognized and explored. Findings include significant issues with accessibility and safety of housing, a preference for independent-living-model group settings, dissatisfaction with acute-care hospital settings, a desire for greater privacy and family accommodation in institutional settings, and a variety of concerns with service providers. Stienstra and Wiebe's recommendations point to a pressing need for more accessible housing, greater housing choice, increased independent-living options, and enhanced supports.

98. Thompson, S., Bonnycastle, M. M., & Hill, S. (2020, May 20). *COVID-19, First Nations and poor housing*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office. (20 pages). <https://policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2020/05/COVID%20FN%20Poor%20Housing.pdf>

A report examining the role of living conditions and Covid vulnerability among Indigenous people. The authors acknowledge the significance of underlying health concerns, as well as colonialism's role in vulnerabilizing the Indigenous population.

99. Torjman, S., Battle, K., & Mendelson, M. (2009). *All Aboard Manitoba's Poverty Train*. Maytree Foundation. (7 pages). <https://maytree.com/wp-content/uploads/816ENG.pdf>

This report summarizes the key elements of a then-new poverty reduction strategy in the province. Its title is a play off the Manitoba Government's *All Aboard: Manitoba's Poverty*

*Reduction Strategy* document (2009), and – perhaps surprisingly, given the title -- the Caledon Institute takes a generally positive view of the strategy's components. This report highlights the province's planned 'housing first' approach, including the *HOMEWorks!:* Homelessness Action Plan, the Mental Health Housing Initiative, an enhanced Manitoba Shelter Benefit, and a new flat-rate housing benefit, as well as the Government's commitment to creating more accessible housing units for people with physical disabilities, as well as for those with intellectual disabilities.

- 100. University of Winnipeg, Institute for Urban Studies. (2002, May 7). *Report on the proceedings of the Housing Forum 2001, Winnipeg, Manitoba: November 19 and 20, 2001.* (60 pages).**

<https://winnspace.uwinnipeg.ca/bitstream/handle/10680/1100/%23%23%23-2002-WHHI-ProceedingsHousingForum2001-WEB.pdf>

This report is based on a forum of approximately 120 participants held in November of 2001, including government representatives and private-sector participants. The forum's purpose was to discuss two key issues: affordable rental housing and new rental construction in Winnipeg's inner city. Participants identified people with disabilities as a key demographic in need of affordable rental housing, noting a particular lack of wheelchair-accessible rental housing that is suitable for families, rather than only single adults. The North End Housing Project on Flora Avenue is presented as an example of a development in which all units (seven in total) are visitable by wheelchair users (32).

Notably, participants in the forum proposed that the percentage of accessible units should be equal to the percentage of disabled people in the population; "i.e., if 2% of population is disabled, make 2% of units accessible to people with disabilities" (38); this example, while hypothetical, perhaps suggests a lack of awareness of the prevalence of disability and physical access needs.



101. WhiteCloud, T. B., & McCracken, M. (2020, October 19). *Fast facts: One hell of a winter unless province steps up on EIA and housing*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office.  
<https://policyalternatives.ca/publications/commentary/fast-facts-one-hell-winter-unless-province-steps-eia-and-housing>

Online commentary that touches on Covid-19-related risks in shelters and the need for more social housing and increased income support. Disability and chronic illness are mentioned as high-risk underlying conditions, and the authors note that unhoused people may choose to avoid shelters to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19.

102. Williams, B., & Rempel, D. (2007). *Response of the Association for Community Living to the Minister of Family Services and Housing and the Executive Director of the MDC (known collectively as the "Province")*. Public Interest Law Centre (Manitoba). Print. (36 pages). Manitoba Legislative Library holdings:  
<https://ablb.mb.catalogue.libraries.coop/eg/opac/record/107465145?locg=1101>

This legal brief details a complaint made against the Province of Manitoba by the Association for Community Living, asserting that Manitoba Developmental Centre residents are facing discrimination in contravention of the Human Rights Code on the basis of age and disability, “by denying them the right to live in their community with appropriate support and funding” (2).

The document provides useful context on institutional facilities in Manitoba, arguing for the inappropriateness of the institutional model and the need for community-based housing models instead. (The Manitoba Developmental Centre’s permanent closure is planned for 2024.)

- 103. End Homelessness Winnipeg. (2021). *Winnipeg rental housing supply: Baseline scan 2021*. (16 pages). <https://endhomelessnesswinnipeg.ca/wp-content/uploads/202109-Rental-Housing-Supply-Baseline-Scan.pdf>**

This document explores rental housing types and available units in Winnipeg. Though it is not disability specific, it is useful for establishing the broader context of the city's urban housing options. A short section on "permanent supportive housing" with figures is included (10-11); the existence of 237 units that fit this category, associated with 6 different providers, is noted.

# Nova Scotia

104. Department of Community Services. (2006, November 23). *Request for proposals 60130839 affordable new rental housing for the Department of Community Service*. <https://housingrightscanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Request-for-proposals-60130839-affordable-new-rental-housing-for-the-Department-of-Community-Service.pdf>

This document outlines the Nova Scotia Housing Development Corporation's (NSHDC) call for proposals for new affordable rental housing units. The Affordable Housing New Rental Program is in partnership with the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and aims to support future projects by partially funding projects that meet affordability requirements set out by the organization.

Provincial priorities the NSHDC seeks to fulfill relate to creating rental housing for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and those with physical disabilities. Alongside this, they seek to fund rental housing projects with supportive components. Proposals for this project should clearly indicate the number of units accessible, units for which target groups, and outline supportive services if applicable. Supportive housing under this program is meant to be done by an agency, but the program still provides capital assistance for the development and requires the units to be under certain income assistance thresholds.

105. Easter Seals. (2020). *Not without us: a report about changing the response for women with disabilities experiencing domestic violence*. <https://online.pubhtml5.com/nxgh/anvy/#p=2>

The report synthesizes insights gathered from women with disabilities who have encountered domestic violence, as well as input from staff across various organizations dedicated to supporting these women. Facilitated through 12 community sessions led by Suzanne Rent across Nova Scotia, the report offers recommendations based on firsthand experiences of women with disabilities and the expertise of organization members.

These community sessions, each lasting approximately two hours, facilitated organic discussions on topics pertinent to women with disabilities facing domestic violence, including accessing transition housing and broader housing issues. Notably, around 30% of Nova Scotia's population has at least one disability, with a higher prevalence among women. The rate of violent victimization for women with disabilities is significantly higher than for able-bodied women.

Accessibility varies across communities, and the report provides an overview of accessibility measures in each community, including details on transition houses, accessible housing, and transportation. Specific data on accessible housing units are scarce, with only some regions having limited accessible options. Recommendations include developing a pilot program to facilitate the transition of home care services to shelters for women with disabilities, as well as creating an online database of accessible housing within the Housing Nova Scotia Inventory.

Challenges highlighted in the report include the inability of many women to access transition housing due to reliance on home care, particularly as home care services do not transition with them. Women with intellectual disabilities face additional hurdles in navigating support systems. Moreover, Nova Scotia faces a shortage of both affordable and accessible housing, particularly in rural areas, though efforts are underway to improve accessibility in existing public housing units. Key recommendations aim to address these challenges and enhance support for women with disabilities facing domestic violence.

**106. The Housing Trust of Nova Scotia. (2024). *About our model.* <https://housingtrust.ca/about-us/>**

The Housing Trust of Nova Scotia is an organization in Nova Scotia that focuses on affordable housing. This document goes into the various ways The Housing Trust provides affordable housing, particularly by partnering with existing purpose-built apartment buildings, revitalizing units, and renting them on a mixed income basis. This allows for a greater amount of housing stock owned by non-profits, who normally provide more affordable options. The Housing Trust hopes to improve the accessibility of their units and buildings overtime and to have at least 20% of units per building

accessible. This will provide more availability and better accommodate people with disabilities.

- 107. Independent Review Team. (2009, December). *Report on Riverview Home Corporation*. Department of Community Services, Services for Persons with Disabilities. (44 pages).  
[https://www.novascotia.ca/coms/department/document/s/Riverview\\_Home\\_Corporation\\_Report.pdf](https://www.novascotia.ca/coms/department/document/s/Riverview_Home_Corporation_Report.pdf)**

Riverview Home Corporation (RHC) is an organization in Pictou County, Nova Scotia that provides housing for people with physical, cognitive and intellectual disabilities. This document from December 2009, prepared by an external review team, provides insight into the challenges found when conducting an operational review. The paper outlines findings and future recommendations on the Riverside Home Corporation's physical environment, governance, programs and services, protection of people in care, and financial reviews. It cited concerns regarding accessibility for persons with disabilities in the RHC, and the paper provides insight into the various challenges of housing for those with disabilities, including the accessibility and management of facilities.

- 108. The Nova Scotia Joint Community-Government Advisory Committee on Transforming the Services to Persons with Disabilities (SPD) Program. (2013, June). *Choice, equality and good lives in inclusive communities: A roadmap for transforming the Nova Scotia Services to Persons with Disabilities program*. Submitted to: The Honorable Denise Peterson-Rafuse Minister of Community Services. (66 pages).  
[https://novascotia.ca/coms/transformation/docs/Choice\\_Equality\\_and\\_Good\\_Lives\\_in\\_Inclusive\\_Communities.pdf](https://novascotia.ca/coms/transformation/docs/Choice_Equality_and_Good_Lives_in_Inclusive_Communities.pdf)**

The report presents a systematic review of Nova Scotia's Services to Persons with Disabilities (SPD) program, drawing on government and community reports, best practices research, and input from consultations with individuals with disabilities, families, and service providers conducted under the 'Putting People First' initiative. Supported by the Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (IRIS), the report offers a 'Roadmap' for redesigning the SPD

program with three primary goals: enhancing self-direction, choice, and control for individuals with disabilities and their families; modernizing support and service delivery systems to foster social and economic inclusion; and increasing the involvement of generic community systems to promote inclusion.

Aligned with principles adopted by the Nova Scotia government and informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Roadmap aims to address key issues such as ineffective person-directed planning supports, inflexible funding, legal and policy barriers, reliance on institutional care, and barriers to employment and housing options. The transformation plan encompasses three major goals, emphasizing self-direction, modernization of service delivery, and enhanced community involvement. Additionally, a ten-point transformation plan includes initiatives like Equal Access to Housing to ensure access to affordable and accessible housing and facilitating access to necessary disability supports irrespective of housing choices. This comprehensive approach seeks to overhaul the SPD program to better meet the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities and foster their inclusion within society.

- 109. Province of Nova Scotia. (2021). *A Healthy Nova Scotia: Solutions for Housing and Homelessness*. (11 pages). <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-2738/healthy-nova-scotia-solutions-housing-and-homelessness-en.pdf>**

The report highlights Nova Scotia's housing crisis, which adversely affects the health, quality of life, and social equity of its population. Emphasizing the urgent need to bolster the supply of affordable housing, particularly within the rental sector, the plan outlines a series of integrated actions aimed at increasing affordable housing availability. These actions entail collaborative efforts with partners, focusing on immediate and long-term strategies such as investing in construction, expediting project approvals, releasing land for development, empowering municipalities with additional tools, expanding the skilled workforce, and considering transportation infrastructure needs.

However, notably absent from the report are references to people with disabilities and their specific accessibility



requirements, including accessible housing. Despite the comprehensive nature of the plan, the lack of consideration for the accessibility needs of individuals with disabilities raises concerns about inclusivity within Nova Scotia's housing strategy.

**110. Province of Nova Scotia. (2023). *Our homes, action for housing: A five year Housing Plan*. (44 pages). <https://novascotia.ca/action-for-housing/docs/strategic-plan-action-for-housing.pdf>**

The Housing Plan for Nova Scotia, informed by the Provincial Housing Needs Assessment Report and supported by input from over 20,000 individuals across the province, outlines a multi-year strategy known as Action for Housing. This plan aims to address housing challenges by increasing supply, supporting affordable housing, and delivering necessary programs. The vision is to ensure safe, affordable housing that caters to diverse needs, including those of people with disabilities.

Key initiatives within the plan include leveraging provincial land and infrastructure for housing development, fostering skilled labor to boost home construction, streamlining regulations, and investing in housing projects. Additionally, efforts focus on growing the community housing sector, upgrading existing affordable housing, and making publicly owned housing more accessible and environmentally friendly.

While the plan makes limited references to the needs of people with disabilities, it acknowledges concerns such as transportation accessibility. Consultations with various communities, including those representing individuals with disabilities, have informed the plan's development. Notably, specific actions within the plan directly address the housing needs of people with disabilities, such as building modular housing in various locations, investing in accessibility upgrades for publicly owned housing units, and providing better information to help individuals with disabilities find accessible homes.

Overall, the Housing Plan for Nova Scotia seeks to create a more inclusive and accessible housing landscape, aligning with the province's goal of achieving accessibility by 2030

while complementing federal and municipal efforts in the housing sector.

- 111. Province of Nova Scotia, Department of Justice. (2018, September). *Access by design 2030: Achieving an accessible Nova Scotia*. (20 pages.)**  
<https://novascotia.ca/accessibility/access-by-design/access-by-design-2030.pdf>

The document outlines a comprehensive strategy called Access by Design 2030 aimed at assessing and implementing the Accessibility Act proclaimed in 2017 by the provincial government of Nova Scotia. This strategy is the result of consultations with various stakeholders, including municipalities, businesses, communities, non-profits, health and education representatives, disability service providers, and individuals with disabilities. It reflects input from these consultations and the Accessibility Advisory Board to define what an accessible, inclusive, and barrier-free province should look like.

The Access by Design 2030 strategy is designed to enhance accessibility across various domains including the built environment, education, employment, goods and services, information and communication, and transportation throughout Nova Scotia. Emphasizing the necessity of a cultural shift, the strategy aims to bring about the required changes. Nova Scotia, with the highest percentage of people identifying as disabled and over 65, became the third province to adopt accessibility legislation in 2017. The Accessibility Act sets a goal of achieving an accessible Nova Scotia by 2030, with the Accessibility Directorate responsible for implementation and an Accessibility Advisory Board offering recommendations.

The strategy, developed based on consultations with over 1,500 Nova Scotians, operates on four principles: Human Rights and Social Justice, Engagement and Collaboration, Coordination and Harmonization, and Innovation and Modernization. It centers on six priorities: Standards Development, Awareness and Capacity Building, Collaboration and Support, Compliance and Enforcement, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Government of Nova Scotia – Leading by Example. Through this multifaceted approach, Access by Design 2030 aims to significantly improve accessibility and inclusivity in Nova Scotia by the target year of 2030.

# Ontario

112. Canadian Mental Health Association. (n.d.). *Resources for accommodation and accessibility*. Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://ontario.cmha.ca/documents/accommodation-and-accessibility/>

This webpage provides a collection of links to seven Ontario-based/Ontario-inclusive organizations of potential relevance to those with support needs related to disability and/or mental health. These include the province's Accessibility Directorate and the Ontario Human Rights Commission; a law clinic for people with disabilities (ARCH Disability Law Centre); and a resource, Think Outside the Box, that provides information on mental health and disability accommodations for a variety of audiences (landlords are among those specifically named).

113. Carleton University, Housing and Residence Life Services. (n.d.) *Accessibility in residence*. Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://housing.carleton.ca/edi-accessibility-in-residence/>

Carleton University's page of residence accessibility measures, aimed at prospective students, describes the accessibility of various on-campus residence options. Several residence halls have designated suites for disabled students. Notably, Carleton offers year-round attendant and personal care services to students in residence who have physical disabilities, at no cost (the program costs are covered by the Ontario Ministry of Health). The linked pages provide details on the origin and history of the Attendant Services Program, a virtual tour of residence rooms, and links to Carleton's accessibility policies, programs, and services.

114. Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (2023). *Unlocking the AODA: Obligations of housing providers under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act: A guide for housing providers in Ontario*. (50 pages). <https://housingrightscanada.com/resources/aoda-guide-for-ontario-housing-providers/>

The guide provides information for housing providers on their obligations under the amended (2016) Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. A large-print, , plain-language document, it outlines the scope of disability protection in Ontario, and suggests that the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal/equitable opportunity should guide landlords and other housing providers in their interactions with renters with disabilities. Emphasis is placed on three of the five Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) components most relevant to housing provision: customer service, information and communication, and design of public spaces. The guide also discusses types of accessibility barriers (physical, attitudinal, information and communication, and policies/practices) as they might be encountered in a housing context, and provides examples of each. Relevant legislation and links to related resources are included at the end of the document. The guide offers insights into the scope and content of information offered to landlords by the province regarding access requirements and expectations.

**115. City of Timmins, Ontario. (n.d.). *The corporation of the City of Timmins accessibility plan 2018-2022*. (20 pages).**

<https://www.timmins.ca/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=16205717>

This plan outlines how the northeastern Ontario municipality of Timmins intends to implement and abide by the requirements of the Accessibility of Ontarians Disability Act (AODA) and other relevant legislation. It mentions a goal of making housing, transportation, communication, and employment more accessible; however, housing is not a specific focus. It may be a helpful document, however, as the city's general and specific commitments to accessibility are potentially relevant to housing initiatives within the city and to the development of communities that are more fully accessible to residents.

116. Cotroneo, C. (2003, Feb 16). Dream team's crusade is dignity for mentally ill; group fights for supportive housing members triumph over disabilities. *The Toronto Star*. University of Manitoba Libraries holdings [institutional access required].  
[https://search.lib.umanitoba.ca/permalink/01UMB\\_INST/1f1g7b3/cdi\\_proquest\\_newspapers\\_438564002](https://search.lib.umanitoba.ca/permalink/01UMB_INST/1f1g7b3/cdi_proquest_newspapers_438564002)

Based around interviews with selected members of a 15-person group of housing advocates nicknamed 'the Dream Team', this news article highlights the pressing need for more supportive housing. The article notes that, according to a recent task force, "Ontario needs 14,000 supportive housing units for the mentally ill." Snippets of first-hand accounts of people with mental health disabilities, learning disabilities, and substance-use issues are presented, in which housing instability and poor housing conditions are stressed. These advocates, many of whom now sit on the boards of mental health agencies, speak with politicians, at schools, and in public forums, describing how appropriate housing and supports have changed their lives and/or the lives of family members. Community resistance to such housing is briefly noted. A ticketed choir 'sing-a-long' event to support the Dream Team is promoted.

117. Developmental Services Housing Task Force & Partners for Planning (P4P). (2016). *18 innovative housing solutions: Designed for people with developmental disabilities*. (42 pages).  
[https://connectability.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Housing-Task-Force\\_Booklet\\_Ph2\\_v6.pdf](https://connectability.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Housing-Task-Force_Booklet_Ph2_v6.pdf)

This illustrated report arose out of a two-phase demonstration-project funding initiative to create innovative, sustainable, and replicable housing options for adults in Ontario with developmental disabilities. Out of 80 proposals received in 2015, twelve and, subsequently, an additional eight, projects were funded through the Developmental Services Housing Task Force. (As of the date of publication, funding had been extended until at least 2019.) The projects were situated in various Ontario urban and rural communities (Toronto, Campbellford/Brighton, Windsor/Essex, Durham/Brockville, Ottawa, Brantford, St. Marys, Peterborough, North Perth, Lanark, York, Lambton, and Eastern Ontario), and took diverse approaches to creating

supportive, community-living housing arrangements. A section of the report is devoted to each initiative, describing its innovative characteristics, the organization(s) supporting it, perspectives on its importance from those involved, and some of its outcomes to date. (The original document also had embedded videos on each project, which are not accessible through the downloaded PDF.)

While these specific projects are all located within Ontario, they offer important insights for planning to meeting the housing needs of people with developmental disabilities that could be applied more widely.

- 118. Duncan, E., Furtado, J., Wrathall, M., & Bedi, G. (2021, December). *Men's homelessness in Dufferin County: A needs assessment*. Guelph, ON: Community Engaged Scholarship Institute. (35 pages).**

<https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/bitstreams/93a89e07-a303-4361-90a5-11c9b3e93e4a/download>

This report, examining social services and unmet needs for unhoused men (inclusively defined) in Dufferin County, Ontario, presents research findings from a two-year collaborative study by CESI's Research Shop and the Men's Homelessness Committee of Orangeville. The work is composed of a literature review (rich in statistics), an environmental scan, two online surveys (of service providers and local community members), recommendations for solutions, and a bibliography. Community survey participants identified the "root causes" of homelessness as "mental health, addiction, poverty, and disabilities" (20). Taking an explicitly intersectional lens that includes disability, the authors argue for a need for accessible medical and psychosocial services (including on-site clinics) to address the high physical and mental health-related needs of the homeless population (7). Affordable housing was a need that was repeatedly stressed by survey participants.

Regarding the surveys, the authors note that the lack of direct engagement with those experiencing homelessness is a significant limitation that needs to be addressed by future research. In spite of the absence of a strong lived-experience component, however, this is a useful document because of its focus on rural Ontario, which often gets overlooked by a hyperfocus on urban areas in homelessness literature.



119. Ford, W., & Watson, A. (2022). *Annual report: Inn from the Cold*. Inn from the Cold. (16 pages).  
[https://www.innfromthecold.ca/usercontent/VariousPhotos//ANNUAL\\_REPORT\\_2022.pdf](https://www.innfromthecold.ca/usercontent/VariousPhotos//ANNUAL_REPORT_2022.pdf)

The 2022 *Annual Report* from Inn from the Cold, a York-region organization that provides services for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, presents an overview of their programs, finances, and strategic plan. They describe their approach as one that “meets people where they at, building in incremental steps, and opportunities to celebrate accomplishments, moving people along the continuum from sleeping rough to a place to call home” (10). During 2022, they record serving over 26,000 meals and securing housing for 23 people, in addition to offering drop-by services, a 16-week education and planning program, and a social-enterprise program. Having recently grown from a small, seasonal shelter to a 24/7 mid-size one, at the time of writing Inn from the Cold was in the process of constructing a new facility with 18 units of transitional housing (the organization has maintained 4 units from 2018 onward).

While disability is not an explicit focus within this document, the organization acknowledges mental-health issues and intergenerational trauma as contributing factors to homelessness, and ones that require individualized support, often through referrals to other community organizations. The report’s presentation of Inn from the Cold’s multiple approaches and services offers an example of the ways that a comprehensive, partnered approach to support can lead to housing stability.

120. Gaetz, S. (2014). *A safe and decent place to live: Towards a Housing First framework for youth*. Homeless Hub Report Series: Report #12. Canadian Homelessness Research Network. (64 pages).  
[http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Housing\\_First\\_for\\_Youth\\_AODA.pdf](http://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/Housing_First_for_Youth_AODA.pdf)

This report arose out of discussions concerning the effective application of Housing First approaches to unhoused young people. Focusing on youth (ages 13-25) from Hamilton Ontario who are experiencing homelessness, the framework outlined here is based on consultations with homelessness researchers, service providers, and young people with lived experience. Gaetz acknowledges that Housing First, as an approach, entails a wrap-around collection of individualized

supports (for health, income, education, etc.) that complement the provision of housing itself. According to the research findings, a youth-oriented Housing First approach requires models of accommodation that meet the specific needs of this population, particularly given that this is a transition not only to 'being housed', but into adulthood itself (32). Five core principles are identified: immediate housing access without preconditions; youth choice and self-determination; a positive youth development orientation; individualized and client-driven supports; and social and community integration. One possibility that exists for some youth is returning to the home of their family of origin (a 'family reconnection' orientation); whereas transitional housing (with support for developing adult life skills) or independent living may be better options for other young people. For those with significant health (including mental health) needs, permanent supportive housing is identified as an option; in these cases, there is an identified need for supports that are trauma-informed, based on a harm-reduction philosophy, and address mental health, substance use, and healthy sexuality. For youth in general, requirements for social connection and meaningful engagement are highlighted, while high rates of unemployment and low-paying work are recognized to pose significant barriers to housing security for young people.

The report also briefly discusses examples of successful youth Housing First programs (11-13). An extensive bibliography is included.

- 121. Goar, C. (2013, January 13). Justice eludes mentally disabled Ontarians. *guelphmercury.com*.  
[https://www.guelphmercury.com/opinion/columnists/justice-eludes-mentally-disabled-ontarians/article\\_a76e351d-f015-58d3-88ba-0125170d6d4f.html](https://www.guelphmercury.com/opinion/columnists/justice-eludes-mentally-disabled-ontarians/article_a76e351d-f015-58d3-88ba-0125170d6d4f.html)**

This news article describes the unfair treatment of people with mental health disabilities during encounters with the courts. Goar highlights how these individuals experience high rates of eviction. The article suggests that current anti-stigma training does not change outcomes and suggests that Legal Aid Ontario neglects the rights of people with disabilities. The author attempts to shed light on a part of the judicial system that is often not visible to the public.

- 122. Hulchanski, J. D. (1994). *Discrimination in Ontario's rental housing market: The role of minimum income criteria*. Ontario Human Rights Commission.  
<https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/handle/1807/126160>**

This urban-centric report focuses on the discrimination faced by low-income earners and people on social assistance (e.g., people with disabilities, single women with children, new immigrants/refugees). In the report, housing and disability are not a primary focus; however, there are useful discussions of terms related to housing, tenant agreements, income, and discrimination. The report was produced in conjunction with two other research papers: *How households obtain resources to meet their needs: The shifting mix of cash and non-cash sources*, by J. David Hulchanski and Joseph H. Michalski, and *The use of housing expenditure-to-income ratios: Origins, evolution and implications*, by J. David Hulchanski.

- 123. Kauppi, C., Pallard, H., Hankard, M., Fitzmaurice, K., Montgomery, P., Elphick, R., Faries, E., Schiff, R., & Waegemakers Schiff, J. (2020, February). *Homelessness enumeration in the Cochrane District: Evaluation and comparison of methodologies*. Report prepared for the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Centre for Research in Social Justice and Policy, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario. (95 pages).  
<https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachm ents/LP99981-LaurentianUSudbury-Final20200520.pdf>**

This 2018 enumeration of unhoused people in the Cochrane District, northeastern Ontario (Timmins, Hearst, Kapuskasing, Iroquois Falls, Matheson, Cochrane, and Moosonee), examines homelessness in this region, with a particular focus on identifying the 'hidden homeless' population. Data on selected demographic and related factors among this population was also collected through structured questionnaires, including health (mental and physical), race, 2SLGBTQ+ identity, and age. Substance use was noted by participants to be the leading reason for homelessness (36). Disability is not explicitly named. Community forums at which the study data were presented resulted in a number of specific recommendations, including a demand for more supportive housing (particularly social housing) and more community-based services for people dealing with substance use and mental health concerns.

This report is notable for its detailed exploration of research methods for studying homeless populations in rural/remote communities, and for the researchers' use of a participatory action research (PAR) and community based participatory research (CBPR) framework. The document also contains data tables, infographics, selected quotations from participants, a bibliography, and an extensive list of relevant community organizations.

- 124. Kauppi, C., Pallard, D. H., Lemieux, S., & Nkosi, T. (2012, June 6). *Homelessness in Timmins, January 2011: Final report*. Laurentian University, Centre for Research in Social Justice and Policy - Poverty, Homelessness, and Migration. (44 pages).**

[https://www3.laurentian.ca/homelessness/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/TIMMINS-Report\\_FINAL-2012-06-05-CK-HRP.pdf](https://www3.laurentian.ca/homelessness/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/TIMMINS-Report_FINAL-2012-06-05-CK-HRP.pdf)

Focusing on homelessness in the northeastern Ontario municipality of Timmins, this report provides a census of the homeless and 'at-risk' populations taken on January 24 to 30, 2011. Collected data (gathered via a structured questionnaire) includes information on demographics, income sources, reasons for homelessness, health issues, and referrals to services. During the week of the census, 720 people, including 257 children, who were homeless/at-risk used the services of one or more identified support agencies in the city. Women and girls made up a slight majority (52.7%) and Indigenous people were considerably overrepresented (39.0%; though only 7.7% of Timmins' population is Indigenous). Significantly, the most frequently reported source of income among all homeless respondents was the Ontario Disabilities Support Program (31.2%). Notably, 6.9% reported illness (mental or physical) as the cause of their homelessness, with a further 5.4% citing substance-use issues as a causal factor; some also noted the inadequacy/inaccessibility of disability support as a contributing factor.

Based on these findings combined with a community consultation, 37 recommendations for Timmins were identified. While none of the endorsed recommendations specifically targets disability, several do encompass it (including more health-care services, free on-site counselling, and revision of provincial and federal income security programs, including those for disability support). Interestingly,

a recommendation to “provide more community-based services to people with mental illness” was one of a small number of additional recommendations that was not prioritized for inclusion by the community-forum participants. The report also includes data tables and a bibliography.

- 125. Linton, M. Q. (2021). Mind the gap: Data gaps and adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario. *Carleton Perspectives on Public Policy*, 7, 120-142. (23 pages).**  
<https://ojs.library.carleton.ca/index.php/cpop/article/view/3182/2903>

This paper discusses how people with disabilities in Ontario experienced trans-institutionalization, wherein former institutionalized individuals are housed in group homes or long-term care homes. Through a focus on institutions, Linton explores rural and urban institutions using legislative documents spanning from 1908 to 2018. The research identifies longstanding gaps in Ontario’s housing system for disabled people. The paper notes a need for more accurate data concerning unhoused disabled people.

- 126. Mainstay Housing [Houselink and Mainstay Community Housing]. (n.d.). *Accessibility*. Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://www.mainstayhousing.ca/about-mainstay/accessibility/>**

Mainstay Housing, the largest non-profit housing agency in Toronto with 1000+ units, focuses on providing affordable, accessible, and supportive housing options; this page contains several linked PDF documents relevant to accessibility. Their 4-page Accessibility Policy focuses on customer service to tenants, and positions Mainstay as “committed to working from an inclusive, holistic, anti-oppression framework to assist individuals from various cultures, racialized groups, abilities, socio-economic backgrounds, sexual orientation and gender identities with their housing, mental health, and, or substance use concerns” (1). This document briefly addresses service animals, assistive devices, communication, and service-disruption notification, among other relevant topics.

Separate linked documents outline Mainstay’s Accommodation/Accessibility Request Procedure and

provide a form for medical practitioners to complete regarding the necessity of Mainstay Housing accommodation and the client's specific support needs.

- 127. Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC). (n.d.). *Discrimination based on disability and the duty to accommodate: Information for housing providers*. Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/discrimination-based-disability-and-duty-accommodate-information-housing-providers>**

This OHRC webpage is targeted specifically at landlords and property managers, and provides a plain-language, example-supported overview of relevant legal considerations. These include the applicability of the *Ontario Human Rights Code*, what constitutes harassment, discrimination, and reprisal, as well the requirements of 'duty to accommodate' for a housing provider.

- 128. Ontario Developmental Services. (2018). *Generating ideas and enabling action: Addressing the housing crisis confronting Ontario adults with developmental disabilities: Ontario Developmental Services Housing Task Force final report 2018*. (145 pages). [https://cdn.agilitycms.com/partners-for-planning/htf-final-reports-pdfs/HTF%20Final%20Report%202018\\_Generating%20Ideas\\_Enabling%20Action\\_FINAL.pdf](https://cdn.agilitycms.com/partners-for-planning/htf-final-reports-pdfs/HTF%20Final%20Report%202018_Generating%20Ideas_Enabling%20Action_FINAL.pdf)**

This key report examines the housing situation faced by adults with developmental disabilities in Ontario and proposes strategies for addressing it. Undertaken in response to rapidly rising numbers of persons waitlisted for residential services over the previous two decades, the Housing Task Force's report is oriented toward taking "dramatic action" (i) to address this crisis. The report stresses guiding principles for such action, including innovation, person-directed planning, a commitment to equity, and partnerships among government, agencies, and the private sector.

The report's 13 recommendations are primarily directed toward the process of undertaking such action, rather than focused on proposing specific models of appropriate housing



(though the document also includes a substantial appendix with descriptions of 18 funded housing demonstration projects and the organizations responsible for them). Included within the recommendations are appeals to the government for targeted funding and affordable housing initiatives. The report's multiple appendices also include survey data and information on a variety of 'homeshare' programs operating within Canada and internationally.

**129. Ottawa Community Housing. (2014, January 1). *OCH and ARRIV multi-year accessibility plan 2023-2028*. <https://www.och-lco.ca/accessibility/>**

This section of the Ottawa Community Housing website sets out the OCH's commitments to accessibility in the form of a five-year plan (2023-2028). Highlighted in the webpage title is OCH's participation in the ARRIV Properties initiative, which offers affordable housing to moderate-income households. The website sections present an overview of specific accessibility commitments; these include: training of employees; determining and implementing communication standards to meet the needs of clients, customers, and staff; fair employment practices; and ensuring design standards are met for physical spaces.

**130. Pegg, S. (2021, June). *Separating housing from disability supports: An idea whose time has come?: Community Living Ontario policy snapshot*. Community Living Ontario. (2 pages). [https://communitylivingontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CLO\\_SNP\\_SnapshotSeries\\_Housing-and-Supports.pdf](https://communitylivingontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CLO_SNP_SnapshotSeries_Housing-and-Supports.pdf)**

In this brief document, the author argues that decoupling housing and supports for people with developmental disabilities "has the potential to increase the flexibility of housing, allowing people to change their living situation while keeping needed supports (or vice versa). It could also open the door to growth in funding for people who live with family members, taking pressure off the overburdened and waitlisted developmental services sector, and addressing the crisis of care among aging parents of people who have developmental disabilities" (1). Noting a 50% increase in waitlisted people for residential services in Ontario from 2009

to 2014, with only a very minimal increase (1%) in people actually access to these, Pegg states that the province's new developmental service reform plan, *Journey to Belonging: Choice and Inclusion* (March 2021), better aligns with this decoupled model than do existing practices. For more details, the author refers the interested reader to the CLO's May 2021 report, *Building a Full Life + A Home of One's Own in the Community*.

**131. Quigley, J. (2023, November 26). Blue Door opening supportive housing for senior men in Newmarket.**

***NewmarketToday.ca.***

**<https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/local-news/blue-door-opening-supportive-housing-for-senior-men-in-newmarket-7881066>**

A news article on the opening of a new supportive housing facility in Newmarket, Ontario, for older men (55+) transitioning out of homelessness. Run by Blue Door Support Services, the five-unit transitional residence will offer personalized support services, including for health concerns that may arise out of the combination of aging and living on the streets.

**132. Richmond, R. (2023, November 6). Housed and hopeful: One woman's path to London's new homeless system.**

***The London Free Press.* <https://lfpres.com/news/local-news/housed-and-hopeful-one-womans-path-to-londons-new-homeless-system>**

A news article describing the experience of one woman ('Brittany') in London, Ontario, who transitioned from homelessness into supportive housing through the city's new homelessness program, a partnership with the London Health Sciences Centre. Recognizing that approximately 600 unsheltered people in London have complex physical and mental health needs, the London Cares housing program offers fifteen 24/7 shelters throughout the city, as well as the 25-unit building in which Brittany now lives, each of which offers primary-care health services and other supports. Notably, the Housing First model followed by the organization does not require an agreement to refrain from substance use in their accommodation, but offers help readily if an individual chooses to seek treatment.

- 133. Summit Housing and Outreach Programs. (n.d).**  
***Accessibility statement.*** Retrieved June 11, 2024, from  
<https://summithousing.ca/accessibility-statement/>

Summit Housing and Outreach Programs provides housing and case management services for people with mental health challenges in several cities within the Halton Region of Ontario. Their accessibility statement outlines commitments to their clients with disabilities, including ones regarding staff training, accessible communication, support persons, and service animals. According to the statement: “Any policy of Summit Housing & Outreach Programs that does not respect and promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities will be modified or removed.”

- 134. Suttor, G., & Bellak, D. (2013, May). *Peterborough: 10-year housing and homelessness plan: Housing and homelessness needs assessment summary.* City of Peterborough, Ontario. (20 pages).**  
<https://yesshelter.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2013-Housing-and-Homelessness-Needs-Assessment-Summary.pdf>

The report provides an overview of the continuum of housing needs experienced by residents of Peterborough, Ontario, with a focus on preventing and addressing homelessness. The authors indicate that higher-than-average unemployment levels and lower-than-average incomes (compared to the province as a whole) situate Peterborough residents as a community in greater need of government support. Disability is primarily addressed in relation to needs for (1) more mental health and addictions support among the already-homeless population, including those housed in emergency shelters; and (2) for more supportive housing for those with a range of disabilities and support needs, including people labeled with an intellectual or developmental disability and many seniors. According to the authors, their research “identified 460 supportive housing units in Peterborough, plus well over 1,000 retirement home units. The largest types of need were seniors needing home supports; people with physical disabilities that require care services; and mental health and addictions” (13). Suttor and Bellak point to the rising number of shelter users with who fit

into the last of these categories as evidence of the insufficiency of current supportive-housing options, and conclude by advocating for a housing-first approach.

- 135. Sylvestre, J., Sabloff, A., Trainor, J., & MacDonnell, K. (2005, January). *A review of values and standards for the delivery of supportive housing services and related supports for people with serious mental illness in Ontario*. Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Toronto. ('Final draft' notation on document). (64 pages).  
<https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/document?repid=rep1&type=pdf&doi=90f1031c2da9f43dfc6732150265c31b3efe75f5>**

This report, based on a wide-ranging review of relevant academic *and* grey literature, is centred on (1) identifying key values for a supportive-housing framework for people labelled with a 'serious' mental illness, and (2) establishing value-based standards to inform planning. Asserting that "housing is the foundation of citizenship and community participation" (1), eight guiding values are identified: appropriateness and consumer choice; access to resources; self-determination and voice; accountability (both of consumers and of others); affordability; housing rights and security of tenure; physical and social quality of housing; and social support and integration with the community. In each case, corresponding sets of standards are set out; these include ensuring that informed choice is possible; that physical access needs are accommodated; that rent not exceed one-third of income; and that all supportive housing be permanent, not transitional.

While this work arises out of an Ontario context and with a mental-health focus, this is a useful source for research-grounded values and concrete measures that may potentially inform policy and practice more broadly. The report includes an extensive annotated bibliography of sources used in the research.

**136. Toronto Community Housing. (2021, December). *Multi-year accessibility plan*. (26 pages).**

[https://www.torontohousing.ca/sites/default/files/2023-08/accessibility\\_plan\\_-\\_2021\\_final\\_a.pdf](https://www.torontohousing.ca/sites/default/files/2023-08/accessibility_plan_-_2021_final_a.pdf)

Toronto Community Housing's *Multi-year accessibility plan* was developed in response to the requirements of provincial disability legislation. The plan details specific legislative requirements, current ways that TCH is in compliance, and concrete commitments for future action and review in areas including policy, communications, employment, and public space design. This document may be of interest to those tracking the administrative aspects of accessibility implementation in Toronto's public housing.

**137. YES Shelter for Youth and Families. (2023). *2022 impact report*. (16 pages). [https://yesshelter.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2022-Impact-Report\\_Final-web.pdf](https://yesshelter.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2022-Impact-Report_Final-web.pdf)**

This impact report from the YES organization in Peterborough, Ontario provides an overview of programs and services offered during 2022, as well as infographics on finances. Situating the increasing challenge of providing adequate housing in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, YES notes a higher level of mental-health needs among unhoused people during Covid, a need for increased length of stays by residents in their emergency shelter, and the additional challenge of shelter capacity limitations due to social-distancing requirements. As well as nearly 8000 overnight shelter stays, this youth-focused organization provided an outreach program, a life-skills program, and a food-box program (in addition to over 23,000 meals served within the shelter itself). YES's Youth RISE transitional housing program also provided safe and supportive accommodation to 42 young people (one of whom, a nonbinary young adult named Berry, dealing with CPTSD and alcohol use, was interviewed for the report).

While disability is not named as such, the organization notes that they commonly connect clients to other community resources for mental health/addictions. Notably, the report observes that a common reason for youth homelessness is mental health and/or substance-use issues *among parents* (7); the role of parental disability in youth housing precarity is rarely mentioned in similar documents.

- 138. Zakharova, M. (2022). *Lifting the ‘invisible’ veil through architecture: Transitioning unhoused women in northeastern Ontario through an intersectional lens.* Master’s thesis. Laurentian University, Sudbury. (150 pages).  
[https://zone.biblio.laurentian.ca/bitstream/10219/3910/1/Thesis-Booklet\\_MZakharova.pdf](https://zone.biblio.laurentian.ca/bitstream/10219/3910/1/Thesis-Booklet_MZakharova.pdf)**

This architecture thesis explores ‘hidden houselessness’ amongst women in Sudbury, Ontario, using an intersectional, feminist lens. The disproportionate number of women among the hidden houseless population (22) means that many have even more limited access to supports intended for unhoused people. Trauma histories/PTSD, other mental-health concerns, and substance use are noted to be common among this population, and factor into the author’s recommendations for a carefully planned built environment for supportive housing. Zakharova proposes a hypothetical proposed housing development for women facing hidden houselessness, offering a wide range of on-site services and supports. Some disability-relevant considerations include communal socializing areas and access to nature for mental well-being, as well as physical accessibility measures (i.e., ramps).

This thesis fills a gap in the literature on positive re-envisioning of what an inclusive and supportive community for precariously housed women could look like, both in terms of amenities and the built environment. Illustrations encompass a wide range of architectural plans and infographics, and the thesis also includes a substantial bibliography.



# Canada

139. **Accessible Canada Act, S.C. 2019, c. 10**, <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/A-0.6.pdf>, retrieved on 2024-06-12, (92 pages).

This *Act* sets out the federal government's responsibilities regarding accessibility, including in relation to the built environment, services, and communications.

140. **Brown, P. (2011). Disability lens evaluation of four provincial poverty reduction strategies: Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Nova Scotia. Council of Canadians with Disabilities – Community Universities Research Alliance. (54 pages).** <http://www.ccdonline.ca/media/socialpolicy/PRS-Disability-Report-Final-Draft.pdf> [Note: Security warning appears when downloading file.]

This disability-focused, multi-province analysis, based on relevant 'grey literature', examines the poverty reduction strategies (PRS) used in the four Canadian provinces named in the title, including attention to intersectionality, social inclusion, and achieving 'full citizenship' for disabled people. In the context of Manitoba's PRS, a key pillar is the development of safe and affordable housing options within supportive communities. Notably, the author identifies housing as a primary area of intervention in Manitoba at the time of writing. The evaluation considers existing programs and initiatives (such as Manitoba's housing subsidies), continuing needs and barriers, and possibilities for future progress. It is valuable for its comparative data among provinces, as well as for its explicit commitment to a disability lens on this issue.

141. **Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2018, March 21). Accessible housing by design.** <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/industry-innovation-and-leadership/industry-expertise/accessible-adaptable-housing/accessible-housing-by-design>

This CMHC webpage provides a brief definition of accessibility in housing. It includes a list of links to fact sheets on accessible design in different home features, including appliances, bathrooms, kitchens, living spaces, and others.

- 142. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2018, March 31). *Secondary suites*. <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/industry-innovation-and-leadership/industry-expertise/accessible-adaptable-housing/secondary-suites>**

This CMHC webpage describes what secondary suites are and explains why they are beneficial for providing rental income to owners and an adaptable home for aging in place. The webpage also provides links to case studies of place where secondary suites were introduced in Ontario.

- 143. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2021, May 27). *Renovating for accessibility*. <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/industry-innovation-and-leadership/industry-expertise/accessible-adaptable-housing/renovating-for-accessibility>**

This CMHC webpage provides a brief definition of renovating for accessibility. It includes a list of links to fact sheets on renovating for accessibility for different building features, including bathrooms, building circulation, building entrances, kitchens, other building features, and site design.

- 144. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2023, February 23). *Universal design guide*. (56 pages). <https://assets.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/sites/cmhc/professional/industry-innovation-and-leadership/industry-expertise/accessible-adaptable-housing/universal-design-new-multi-unit-residential-buildings/universal-design-guide-en.pdf>**

This guide is designed for new multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs) with single-level units in low-, mid-, or high-rise structures that share common areas and entrances. It serves as a practical, non-technical introduction to Universal Design, aimed at residential designers, builders, and developers.

The guide seeks to inspire innovative, inclusive, and affordable MURB designs, emphasizing how homes can adapt to residents' changing needs without costly renovations. It underscores the importance of adaptability in housing design, allowing for easy modifications as circumstances evolve. This guide is not applicable to other housing types, such as single-detached homes, semi-detached homes, row houses, stacked townhouses, or multi-level individual condominium/apartment units.

- 145. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2023, April 19). *Denied renting: Lived experiences of rental discrimination*. Housing Research – Research Insight. (10 pages). <https://assets.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/sites/cmhc/professional/housing-markets-data-and-research/housing-research/research-reports/2023/denied-renting-lived-experiences-rental-discrimination-en.pdf>**

A report exploring the issue of rental discrimination through a Human Rights Based Approach to Housing (HRBATH), focusing on vulnerable populations seeking housing access. This study, conducted by the Institute for Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg, employs a GBA+ approach to investigate various aspects of rental discrimination, including its forms, impact on tenants, and potential prevention measures. Key findings reveal that discrimination occurs at all stages of a tenancy, with economic discrimination being the most prevalent, particularly affecting those reliant on fixed incomes like ODSP and OW recipients. People with disabilities are particularly affected, facing limited access to accessible housing and landlords' reluctance to accommodate their needs, sometimes leading to lengthy Human Rights complaints. The study also underscores how factors such as race, income, disability, and family status intersect with gender, impacting women with disabilities on low incomes who often live in unsafe conditions. Additionally, older adults experience discrimination related to income and a fear that they may develop disabilities in the future.

- 146. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2024). *Accessible and adaptable housing*. <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/industry-innovation-and-leadership/industry-expertise/accessible-adaptable-housing>**

This Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) webpage contains links to other CMHC webpages dedicated to different forms of accessible and adaptable housing and related topics, including secondary suites, accessible housing by design, aging in place, renovating for accessibility, and Universal Design Guide.

- 147. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). (2024). *Aging in place*. <https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/industry-innovation-and-leadership/industry-expertise/accessible-adaptable-housing/aging-in-place>**

This CMHC webpage contains links to other CMHC webpages related to aging in place, which is described as “[t]he ability to live in the same home or community safely, independently, and comfortably, as you age.”

- 148. Canadian Human Rights Commission, Office of the Federal Housing Advocate. (2022). *Towards a stronger national housing strategy: Meeting Canada’s human rights obligations*. (43 pages). <https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/OFHA-factsheets-EN.pdf>**

This report identifies issues with housing provision in Canada, with a focus on the *National Housing Strategy Act* (NHSA), and recommendations for change, also noting legal considerations and political imperatives relevant to each issue. Disability is not a focus, but marginalized and vulnerable groups are recognized as disproportionately impacted by the housing crisis. The report mentions that “15% of persons with disabilities are in core housing need, compared to just over 9% of people without disabilities” (27). This document may be of interest to those wishing to better understand the complex array of actors, stakeholders, policies, and legislative aspects of relevance to the Canadian housing crisis.

- 149. Chung, K. (n.d.). *Need and demand study*. Unitarian Commons. Retrieved June 11, 2014, from <https://unitariancommons.ca/our-research/>**

The "Need and Demand Study" conducted by Unitarian Commons, a faith-based organization committed to promoting non-profit, accessible co-housing in intentional

communities, highlights the pressing need for affordable, accessible housing, particularly for individuals with mobility-related disabilities. The study, which encompasses Toronto and other areas in Canada, employs a combination of methods including literature reviews, informal interviews with relevant stakeholders, and an online survey. Notably, the report emphasizes that universal design co-housing, aimed at addressing the demand for accessible housing, only incurs a minimal cost increase of around 1% compared to conventional designs. The literature review covers two main areas: cohousing, seen as a solution to combat isolation, particularly among seniors, and universal design, which is examined both in terms of enhancing accessibility in housing and as a human rights issue. Overall, the findings underscore the urgent need for socially cohesive, affordable, accessible housing in intergenerational, age-friendly communities to cater to the increasing population of individuals with mobility-related disabilities.

- 150. Gillespie, E., Rioux, M., Mora Severino, S., Moore, M., Independent Living Toronto, Bell, S., Williams, L., Simmons, R., Lipscombe, D., Carpenter, S., McFarlane, C., Vukson, L. & Hostland, E. (2016, March). *Expanding the circle: Monitoring the human rights of Indigenous, First Nations, Aboriginal, Inuit and Metis people with disabilities in Canada: Systemic report*. Disability Rights Promotion International Canada (DRPI-Canada). (67 pages). <http://drpi.research.yorku.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/EXPANDING-THE-CIRCLE-Systemic-Report-July-2016.pdf>**

This report is a comprehensive examination of the human rights of Indigenous, First Nations, Aboriginal, Inuit, and Métis people with disabilities in Canada, guided by the Disability Rights Promotion International Canada (DRPI-Canada) framework. The report systematically evaluates existing laws, policies, and programs in Canada and Ontario, focusing on four critical categories: access to the physical environment, transportation, information, and communications; education; health; and cultural life, all of which intersect with the right to housing. It emphasizes the role of colonization in hindering the realization of Indigenous people's rights and reveals significant disparities in access to quality housing and infrastructure between those living on reserves and off reserve. Limited accessible housing options, exacerbated by factors like cost, racism, and discrimination,

pose substantial barriers to the exercise of fundamental rights, including dignity, autonomy, and equality, for Indigenous people with disabilities in Ontario. The report underscores the urgent need for improved housing policies and accessibility measures to address these critical issues.

- 151. Goering, P., Veldhuizen, S., Watson, A., Adair, C., Kopp, B., Latimer, E., Nelson, G., MacNaughton, E., Streiner, D. & Aubry, T. (2014). *National At Home/Chez Soi final report*. Mental Health Commission of Canada. (48 pages.) [https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/wp-content/uploads/drupal/mhcc\\_at\\_home\\_report\\_national\\_cross-site\\_eng\\_2\\_0.pdf](https://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/wp-content/uploads/drupal/mhcc_at_home_report_national_cross-site_eng_2_0.pdf)**

This report examines a two-year, five-city Housing First intervention, At Home/Chez Soi, with a focus on assessing outcomes for its participants in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, and Moncton. The project was designed as a randomized controlled trial, collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, with slightly more than half of participants (1158) being assigned to a Housing First (HF) intervention, and the remainder (990) following a ‘treatment as usual’ (TAU) approach. The Housing First model, which offers immediate access to permanent housing with community supports, was implemented by providing each unhoused participant with an apartment, a rent supplement, and support services (in the form of either Assertive Community Treatment or Intensive Case Management, as appropriate in each case).

A HF approach was found to be more effective at ending homelessness than was a TAU approach (62%, versus 31%, of HF participants were fully and consistently housed by the end of the study [17]), and the program was effective in cities of different sizes and ethnocultural compositions. The HF program also proved to be comparatively cost effective, especially for clients with the highest needs; according to the researchers, “every \$10 invested in HF services resulted in an average reduction in costs of other services of \$9.60 for HN [high-needs] participants and \$3.42 for MN [moderate-needs] participants” (23). HF participants also experienced improved outcomes related to health and addictions. The study’s authors emphasize that the success of HF interventions is dependent upon effective integration with community-based supports, require coordination across



government and community sectors, and can be adapted to meet the needs of specific subpopulations while still adhering to the core principles of HF. This report provides strong supporting data and discussion of both successes and areas that still need to be addressed. There is a bibliography provided, as well as several appendices offering quantitative data and further details on the study's methods.

- 152. National Housing Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. N-11,**  
<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/N-11.pdf>, retrieved  
 on 2024-06-12, (62 pages).

Framed as “An Act to promote the construction of new houses, the repair and modernization of existing houses, and the improvement of housing and living conditions” (3), the *National Housing Act* sets out rights, obligations, and regulations concerning many aspects of housing, including housing loans, land acquisition, and public housing. It is not disability or accessibility specific.

- 153. National Housing Strategy Act, S.C. 2019, c. 29, s. 313,**  
<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/N-11.2.pdf>, retrieved  
 on 2024-06-12, (15 pages).

The *National Housing Strategy Act* sets out national goals relating to housing and homelessness, with a stated focus on “improving housing outcomes for persons in greatest need” (5.2.c). It establishes a National Housing Council and a Federal Housing Advocate, and lays out accountability mechanisms. Though disability and accessibility are not explicitly mentioned in the *Act*, it is nevertheless relevant to most discussions of national-level housing policy.

- 154. Government of Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada. (2022). *Canada's disability inclusion action plan*. (15 pages).**  
[https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/esdc-edsc/documents/programs/disability-inclusion-action-plan-2/action-plan-2022/ESDC\\_PDF\\_DIAP\\_EN\\_20221005.pdf](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/esdc-edsc/documents/programs/disability-inclusion-action-plan-2/action-plan-2022/ESDC_PDF_DIAP_EN_20221005.pdf)

This document presents Canada's first-ever federal government plan for disability inclusion, the result of a commitment made in 2020. The plan is oriented around four pillars: financial security, employment, accessible and

inclusive communities, and a modern approach to disability, grounded in the “guiding principles” of ‘Nothing Without Us’, a human rights-based approach, and intersectionality (6). The Plan’s third pillar – accessible and inclusive communities – engages in a very limited way with housing (specifically, promising a review of the accessibility of shelters for victims of gender-based violence). More tangentially related to accommodation, it includes public and community spaces as targets for accessibility improvements via the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF). The Plan provides a useful overview of the scope of the Government of Canada’s various access commitments as of 2022.

**155. March of Dimes Canada. (n.d. [2019?]). *Getting in on the ground floor: Prioritizing accessible housing for people with disabilities to promote inclusion and national competitiveness.* (6 pages).**

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/421/FI/NA/Brief/BR10007054/br-external/MarchOfDimeCanada-e.pdf>

This is a written submission for pre-budget consultations in advance of the 2019 Federal Budget. The document outlines three recommendations for prioritizing accessible housing in the 2019 Budget by: 1) ensuring that all new homes built through the National Housing Strategy meet minimum accessibility standards developed in consultation with people with disabilities; 2) the government invest in the development of a National Home Modification program; and 3) that identification of the housing needs among people with disabilities is prioritized in the National Housing Strategy Research Agenda. The document emphasizes the need to include specific commitments on how the National Housing Strategy will be inclusive of people with disabilities that can enable their economic and broader participation in their communities by maximizing their independence.

**156. Pan Canadian Voice for Women’s Housing (PCVWH). (2020). *Fourth Annual Pan Canadian Voice for Women’s Housing 2020 Symposium.* (10 pages).**

<https://atira.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pan-Canadian-Symposium-2020-Report.pdf>

This short, illustrated report offers a summary of the PCVWH 2020 virtual Symposium, a review of the 2019 ‘six calls to action’, a set of additional calls to action, updates on relevant

commitments by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and a consideration of future directions. The 2019 calls to action include the need to attend to design and renovation to accommodate disabled women. The new calls are framed by an emphasis on women who are part of marginalized communities (“for example, Black, First Nations, Métis and Inuit women, women who are disabled, transwomen, refugee and immigrant women, [and] Francophone women” [6]).

Disability is not discussed at length in this report, but is acknowledged as a meaningful intersecting factor in women’s experiences and access regarding housing.

- 157. Pomeroy, S. (2023, January). *Responding to a new wave of homelessness: Proposal for a Homelessness Prevention & Housing Benefit: A proposal for the federal government*. Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH). (26 pages). <https://caeh.ca/wp-content/uploads/Homelessness-Prevention-and-Housing-Benefit-Policy-Whitepaper-CAEH.pdf>**

This white paper argues for the necessity of a specific policy initiative – specifically, an expanded federal Homelessness Prevention and Housing Benefit (HPHB) – to reduce and prevent homelessness. Drawing on 2021 census findings regarding the role of federal government support during the early phase of the Covid-19 pandemic and the accompanying reduction in core housing need, Pomeroy argues for a dual-stream benefit that expands the existing Canada Housing Benefit (CHB). This HPHB would, he maintains, (1) reduce the flow into chronic homelessness while also assisting people’s exit from it, and (2) prevent at-risk populations from becoming homeless in the first place. “The potential impact of the HPHB,” according to the author, “would be to bring up to 50,000 people/households out of chronic homelessness and prevent between 200,000 and 385,000 people/households from falling into homelessness due to inflationary pressures they are currently experiencing” (ii). The cost is estimated at approximately \$3 billion per year (17); the paper also offers cost breakdowns and variability in cost estimates based on the specifics of such an initiative (20).

158. Randle, J. & Thurston, Z. (2022, June 10). *Housing experiences in Canada: Persons with disabilities*. Statistics Canada.  
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/46-28-0001/2021001/article/00011-eng.htm>

This fact sheet provides a comprehensive overview of the housing situations of individuals with disabilities in Canada, using data from the 2017 Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD). The report encompasses various dimensions of housing experiences, including tenure status, affordability, accessibility, suitability, condition of dwellings, and core housing needs. It reveals several disparities between people with disabilities and the general population. For instance, individuals with disabilities are more likely to live in rental housing, particularly subsidized rental housing, and face higher rates of housing unaffordability despite similar or lower median shelter costs, partly attributed to higher poverty rates among this group. The fact sheet also highlights differences in housing experiences among people with various disability types, with mental health-related disabilities having the lowest homeownership rates and the highest incidence of core housing need. While providing valuable insights into the housing challenges faced by individuals with disabilities, it acknowledges limitations such as the absence of severity information regarding disabilities and the exclusion of the institutionalized population from the study.

159. Schwan, K., Nelson, A., Marks, H., Landry, A., Smith, J., Chapple, H., Hache, A., Baig, K., Raza, S., Zimmerman, E., Sadler, V., Eiboff, F., Campbell, J., Chaland, N., Brais, H., Knowles, T., Vaccaro, M.E., Jenkinson, J., Malenfant, J., Laforge, L., Traynor, F., Ashlie, K., Masoud, H., Fox, H., Porter, B., Whitzman, C., & Dej, E. (2022, June). *The crisis ends with us: Request for a review into the systemic denial of the equal right to housing of women and gender-diverse people in Canada*. Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network. (65 pages).  
<https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/WNHHN-Housing-Claim-14-June-2022.pdf>

The human rights claim presented in this illustrated document originated in perceived failures in housing equity for women, girls, gender-diverse people, and groups with

intersecting marginalized identities in Canada. Making use of the promises in the *National Housing Strategy Act* (NHSA) (2019), the WNHHN presents a three-part claim, including (1) identifying housing-related human-rights violations, (2) connecting specific human-rights obligations to housing, and (3) offering specific recommendations to the Federal Housing Advocate. The claim identifies ableism as among the frameworks that act as barriers to housing equity.

Valuable statistical data are presented on rates of disability among precariously housed women and gender-diverse persons (in one major study, 79% of this population reported one or more disabilities, with an average of three [24]). The authors also note a lack of supportive and accessible housing options and the continued use and funding of restrictive congregate facilities. High rates of exposure to violence and environmental hazards, including the effects of climate change, are noted to contribute to disability among those in poor-quality housing. A lack of accessibility and equitable treatment in emergency and homeless shelters is also observed. Links among the financialization of housing, gender-based violence, colonization, and anti-Indigenous bias are explored. The authors argue, “States have an obligation under international human rights law to address and remedy these patterns by ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to adequate housing, with ‘adequacy’ understood through a disability lens and on the basis of meaningful engagement and participation of persons with disabilities” (59).

Overall, this document locates disability prominently among a number of intersecting factors that contribute to housing precarity and homelessness among women, girls, and gender-diverse people.

- 160. Van den Berg, R. (2019, June 21). *A primer on housing rights in Canada*. Library of Parliament (Parliamentary Information and Research Service). (24 pages). <https://lop.parl.ca/staticfiles/PublicWebsite/Home/ResearchPublications/BackgroundPapers/PDF/2019-16-e.pdf>**

This background paper is designed to offer nonpartisan information on Canadian housing rights to parliamentarians and government committees. The document reviews international human-rights legislation (including the *UN*

*Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*) and relevant federal and provincial laws, as well as mechanisms for enforcing compliance with these. An appendix presents the specifics of provincial and territorial human-rights codes. There is little discussion of disability and accessibility in relation to housing in this paper.

**161. Whitzman, C. (2021, October). *Progress on 2018 six calls to action. Pan-Canadian Voice for Women's Housing. (16 pages).* <https://atira.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pan-Canadian-Voice-for-Women-update-on-calls-report.pdf>**

The impetus for this report was the organization of a Pan-Canadian Voice for Women's Housing (PCVWH) symposium in October 2021, in advance of an impending review of Canada's *National Housing Strategy* (NHS), to be followed by a report by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) due to the federal government by February 2022. In this document, Whitzman concludes that not only has there been little progress on the six 'calls to action' issued by the PCVWH three years prior, but conditions for households led by women and gender-diverse people appear to have worsened during this time. The six calls include: consultation with experts with lived experience of homelessness; that housing in First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities be administered by those groups and be inclusive of healing centres; that a minimum percentage of NHS funding (33%) be allocated to women's housing; that the CMHC fund PCVWH on an ongoing basis; that women's organizations be comparably funded to broader-oriented agencies; and that the CMHC advocate for a Guaranteed Annual Income program conceptualized through an intersectional gender lens. The report offers a detailed analysis of progress, or lack thereof, on each of the six calls to action, including questions put to the CMHC by the PCVWH and that organization's responses. Among the author's conclusions are that the NHS needs to be revised, including the addition of a requirement that any government or developer "adheres to rights-based definitions of affordable housing, outcomes and participatory processes" (13) and that Indigenous-led housing development prioritize women's housing.

Disability and accessibility are not prominent in the report, though disability organizations were participants in past PCVWH symposia. The report also contains a bibliography



of reports, government documents, and other relevant documents/webpages.

## International

162. Alzheimer Society of Canada, ARCH Disability Law Centre, Canadian Association for Community Living, Canadian Mental Health Association -- Toronto Branch, Council of Canadians with Disabilities, IRIS – Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society, People First of Canada, Social Rights Advocacy Centre & Wellesley Institute. (2017, March 15). *Meeting Canada's obligations to affordable housing and supports for people with disabilities to live independently in the community: Under Articles 19 and 28, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and under Articles 2 and 11, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. (18 pages). <https://inclusioncanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Canada-Right-to-Housing-for-Persons-with-Disabilities-May-15-2017.pdf>

This is a written submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing for her report to the UN General Assembly. The submission focuses on the housing and supports gaps that people with disabilities face in Canada and was written in response to the Special Rapporteur's questionnaire for her report to the General Assembly. The document reports on housing disadvantage, discrimination and homelessness faced by persons with disabilities; lack of a rights-based framework to address homelessness and housing supports for people with disabilities; and recommendations for the Special Rapporteur to include in her report.

163. Szporluk, M. (2015). *The right to adequate housing for persons with disabilities living in cities: Towards inclusive cities*. Nairobi: UN-Habitat. (134 pages). <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/download-manager-files/Disability%20Report.pdf>

This document delves into the multifaceted landscape of housing rights for individuals with disabilities living in urban areas. It explores the diverse needs of people with disabilities and the barriers they face in securing adequate housing. Highlighting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), this work emphasizes the

need for additional considerations regarding housing rights for this group. Recognizing that individuals with disabilities are not a homogeneous group and require varying degrees of support and services, the study underscores the human rights model's perspective, which posits equal rights but acknowledges impediments due to attitudinal, legal, and environmental barriers.

Six overarching strategies to promote the right to housing for persons with disabilities are identified: combating discrimination in housing, supporting independent living, addressing built environment barriers, enhancing data collection and monitoring, tackling intersectional discrimination, as well as specific recommendations for achieving inclusive housing in urban settings.

- 164. UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. (1991). CEDAW General Recommendations Nos. 16, 17 and 18, adopted at the Tenth Session, 1991 (contained in Document A/46/38), A/46/38, 1991.**  
<https://www.refworld.org/legal/general/cedaw/1991/en/38085>

Based on article 3 of CEDAW and on over 60 periodic reports submitted by State Parties to CEDAW that provide scarce information on the situation of disabled women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommends that State parties provide information on disabled women in their periodic reports.

- 165. UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (2014, May 14). General comment no. 2 (2014), Article 9: Accessibility. CRPD/C/GC/2.**  
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g14/033/13/pdf/g1403313.pdf?token=rW4glul4QkQyNhs2Fw&fe=true>

This document was prepared by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to clarify the content of Article 9 of the CRPD which focuses on accessibility. The comment states that accessibility is a precondition for persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully and equally in society. This includes full access to the built environment, to transportation, to information and communication, and other services and facilities without

which people with disabilities do not have equal opportunity to participate fully in society.

The general comment outlines the need to strictly apply universal design to all new goods, products, facilities, technologies, and services in order to ensure full and equal unrestricted access to all. This applies to, among other things, to all buildings including housing. In relation to Article 28 of the CRPD which addresses the right to an adequate standard of living, State parties should ensure that social housing programmes should offer housing that is accessible.

**166. UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (2016, November 25). General comment No.3 on Article 6 – women and girls with disabilities. CRPD/C/GC/3.**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no3-article-6-women-and-girls>

This general comment was created in response to a general discussion that the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held on women and girls with disabilities. The document aims to clarify the content of Article 6 of the CRPD which focuses on the rights of women and girls with disabilities. It states that there is strong evidence that suggests women and girls with disabilities face barriers in most areas of life that create multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against them. The document places a special emphasis on discrimination in equal access to education, economic opportunities, social interaction and justice, equal recognition before the law, ability to participate in politics, and to exercise control over their own lives in a broad range of contexts.

With regard to the content of Article 6 of the CRPD, the general comment stipulates that State parties must implement measures that can ensure the development, advancement and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities, as well as the develop channels that promote measures through which they can exercise their agency and have their voice heard as distinct rights holders.

- 167. UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. (2014, October 17). General comment no. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community. CRPD/C/GC/5.**  
<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g17/328/87/pdf/g1732887.pdf?token=sLeDnyPRhfXnG8wE8m&fe=true>

This document was prepared by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to clarify the content of Article 19 of the CRPD which focuses on the equal right to live independently and be included in the community. The aim was to avoid misconceptions about what it means for people with disabilities to choose their place of residence and where and whom to live with, their right to in-home, residential, and community support services, and the right to equal access to community services and facilities.

The general comment's purpose is to assist State parties in the implementation of article 19 of the CRPD to fulfill their obligations to ensure every person's right to live independently and be included in the community. This includes ensuring access to adequate, safe, and affordable housing in the community of their choice on an equal basis with others.

- 168. UN Women. (n.d.). *Global norms and standards: Women and girls with disabilities*. Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/women-and-girls-with-disabilities/global-norms-and-standards>**

This webpage provides a short overview of the international norms, standards, and treaties that refer to the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities, including Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (CRPD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**169. United Nations. (1988). Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. *Treaty Series, 1249.***

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm>

This document, which consists of 30 articles, provides an international framework for understanding what constitutes discrimination against women and for setting up a national agenda for ending such discrimination. The document was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979 and opened for signatures in 1980. Canada signed CEDAW in 1980 and ratified it in 1981.

While CEDAW does not specifically refer to women with disabilities, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted general recommendation no. 18 which notes that women with disabilities are doubly marginalized and calls on State parties to provide information on the extent of this form of discrimination. With regards to housing, article 14 states that State parties shall take steps to ensure adequate housing for women in rural areas who face particular forms of discrimination.

**170. United Nations. (2006). Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. *Treaty Series, 2515.***

<https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-articles>

This international convention was adopted on December 13, 2006 and opened for signature on March 30, 2007. Canada ratified the CRPD in 2010. The purpose of this international treaty is “to promote, protect, and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, fundamental freedoms by all people with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.” State parties to the Convention must ensure that its purpose is put into practice by, among other things, submitting periodic reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Within the CRPD's 50 articles, articles 9, 19, 23, and 28 specifically address the right to housing for people with disabilities. Article 9 focuses on the obligation of State parties to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal



access to the physical environment, including housing. Article 19 states that State parties must recognize the equal right of people with disabilities to live independently and be included in the community, including the opportunity to choose their place of residence and access in-home, residential, and other community support services. Article 23 outlines the obligation of State parties to ensure respect for the home and family by guaranteeing people with disabilities an equal right to family life. Article 28 obligates State parties to recognize the right of people with disabilities and their families to an adequate standard of living, which includes adequate clothing, food, and housing.

**171. United Nations, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing. (2017, July 12). *Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context.* (23 pages). <https://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?OpenAgent&DS=A/72/128&Lang=E>**

This report, on the right to housing for people with disabilities, describes “widespread human rights violations” toward disabled people (2), including institutionalization, discrimination, and criminalization (especially when unhoused). The Special Rapporteur argues in favour of a human rights-based approach to housing and disability, which “rejects charitable and medical approaches to disability” (4) and affirms principles including dignity, autonomy, and choice. Linking this shift with the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (2008), the report argues that governments have an obligation “to adopt reasonable measures to realize the right to adequate housing to the maximum of available resources” (14), and that such housing must be secure, affordable, habitable (accessible), have access to necessary services, and be culturally suitable.

Reviewing a selection of relevant court cases and laws from countries around the world, the Special Rapporteur sets forth a series of recommendations for governments regarding housing provision for disabled members of their respective populations.

- 172. United Nations, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing. (n.d.). *Women and the right to adequate housing*. Retrieved June 11, 2024, from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-housing/women-and-right-adequate-housing>**

This webpage outlines key aspects of housing rights at the international level, and provides linked documents on specific relevant standards, resolutions, reports, brochures, and statements. Of most relevance is the linked report, *Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context* (listed here as *The right to adequate housing of persons with disabilities* [2017]).

- 173. Wiesel, I. (2020). *Lived experience and social, health and economic impacts of inaccessible housing*. Melbourne: University of Melbourne. (44 pages). [https://disability.unimelb.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/3492686/RIA-Report-Survey-Findings.pdf](https://disability.unimelb.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/3492686/RIA-Report-Survey-Findings.pdf)**

This report, drawing from 1,187 questionnaire responses and 45 in-depth interviews, provides a comprehensive examination of the lived experiences and far-reaching social, health, and economic impacts of inaccessible housing in Australia. The study reveals that individuals with "lower levels of impairment" are disproportionately affected by inaccessible housing due to their ineligibility for home modification funds, while lower-income individuals face barriers in affording accessible homes. A substantial majority (73.6%) of respondents lived in housing that only partially met their accessibility needs, with private renters being the most affected group.

The report underscores the profound isolation experienced by those with mobility restrictions, who are unable to visit inaccessible homes of friends and family. It highlights the need for adaptable housing to accommodate evolving accessibility requirements over an individual's life course. Additionally, housing built to accessible standards proves to be more effective than modified housing. Inaccessible housing imposes significant negative impacts on job and income stability, exacerbating reliance on paid and unpaid support, straining relationships, hindering employment prospects, and affecting mental health.

The report emphasizes that insufficient accessible housing options limit housing choices, leading to missed job opportunities, and recommends building all new homes to accessible standards as the most effective solution to address the shortage of accessible housing.



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