

2026.04 Implementation of the Disability Housing Recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission

Resolved, that national council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 106th national annual meeting of members assembled urges the federal government to implement the disability housing recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Brief: Implementation of the Disability Housing Recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission

The Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) and the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate monitor the right to adequate housing for people with disabilities (Monitoring). They have recommended an increase in the supply of accessible housing, increased funding to develop barrier-free new build options and accessibility-related home adaptations for Canadians with disabilities (Canada, Statistics). Informed by Catholic social teaching, an object of The Catholic Women's League of Canada is to recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere.

Physical disability affects 6.2 million Canadians and is expected to increase rapidly with Canada's ageing population, heightening the demand for barrier-free and accessible housing (Lindsay et al. 2; Canada, Statistics c 1; Gamey et al. 162). Housing accessibility and affordability are key social indicators correlating with improved health outcomes and quality of life (Lindsay et al. 1-2; Ontario 1; Gamey et al. 161).

In 2024, the CHRC reviewed housing for people with disabilities and reported that needs change over time and housing should support this. "People should not have to leave their home when their needs change" (Canadian Human). With disability progression, many people experience challenges of hospitalizations and changes in health status making their current home environment inadequate (Gamey and Terashima 179). Avoiding expensive institutionalization and separation from loved ones, makes a strong case for disability home adaptations (Lindsay et al. 2). There is a moral, social and financial imperative to support the disabled in the environment of their choice, close to family, friends and spiritual supports.

There are many gaps, both geographic and financial, in the patchwork of existing agencies and organizations funded through government and private sector revenue streams (Hole, R. et al. 4). These organizations provide accessible private housing for Canadians with disabilities. It is often difficult for people with disabilities to navigate this system (Hole et al. 4; Canada, Statistics b 4). Developing a national disability housing framework, with the different levels of government and private sector companies working together, will better address the needs of Canadians (Monitoring).

In January 2025, the CHRC presented their recommendations for the third time to the federal government. The CHRC expressed grave concern related to the existing national patchwork approach and lack of progress with implementation of their recommendations to meet the private housing needs of Canadians with disabilities (Canadian Human).

Canadians with disabilities should be able to easily access barrier-free new build housing options and accessibility-related home adaptations over the course of their lifetime. The Catholic Women's League of Canada urges the federal government to implement the disability housing recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Implementation of the Disability Housing Recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission

Works Cited

- Canada, Statistics Canada. "Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD)." *Statistics Canada*, 1 Dec. 2023 www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=3251.
- Canadian Human Rights Commission. *Canadian Human Rights Commission Submission to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on the Occasion of Canada's 2nd and 3rd Periodic Review*. 2025, www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/submission-to-the-committee-on-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-on-the-occasion-of-canada-2nd-and-3rd-periodic-review.pdf.
- . *Monitoring the Right to Adequate Housing for People with Disabilities: Summary of Outcome Indicator Results*. Government of Canada, 3 Oct. 2025, www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/resources/publications/monitoring-right-adequate-housing-people-disabilities-summary-outcome.
- . *What We Learned: Housing for People with Disabilities*. Canadian Human Rights Commission / Commission canadienne des droits de la personne, Apr. 2024, www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/sites/default/files/documents/what-we-learned-about-housing-for-people-with-disabilities.pdf.
- Gamey, John, and Mikiko Terashima. "Accessible Housing in Canada: An Overview of Policy Initiatives and the Need for Renewed Action / Le Logement Accessible au Canada." *Canadian Planning and Policy / Aménagement et politique au Canada*, Dec. 2023, pp. 160–186, doi.org/10.24908/cpp-apc.v2023i1.16687.
- Hole, Rachelle, et al. *Disability Housing in Canada: A Jurisdictional Scan*. The UBC Canadian Institute for Inclusion and Citizenship, 31 Jan. 2025, ciic.ok.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/212/2025/06/Disability-Housing-in-Canada.-A-Jurisdictional-Scan-January-2025.pdf.
- Lindsay, Sally, et al. "Accessible Independent Housing for People with Disabilities: A Scoping Review of Promising Practices, Policies and Interventions." *PLOS ONE*, vol. 19, no. 1, Jan. 2024, doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0291228.
- Ontario Human Rights Commission. "OHRC Statement for National Housing Day November 22: Accessible Housing Makes Social, Economic Sense." *Ontario Human Rights Commission*, 22 Nov. 2020, www.ohrc.on.ca/en/news-center/ohrc-statement-national-housing-day-november-22-accessible-housing-makes-social.
- Thurston, Zach, and Jeff Randle. "Housing Experiences in Canada: Persons with Disabilities." *Statistics Canada*, 10 June 2022, www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/46-28-0001/2021001/article/00011-eng.htm.

Action Plan: Implementation of the Disability Housing Recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission

1. Communicate with the minister of jobs and families and the minister of housing and infrastructure urging the federal government to implement the recommendations of the Canadian Human Rights Commission through a national disability framework. Refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* for options, including letter-writing, petitions and postcards.
2. Communicate with the minister of jobs and families and the minister of housing and infrastructure requesting an increase in the percentage of barrier free new builds and accessibility-related home adaptations under the *Build Canada Homes Act*. Refer to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.
3. Encourage discussion and presentations related to affordable and accessible housing for Canadians living with a disability.
4. Monitor the federal government and the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate's responses.