

2017-10 (October 18, 2017)

SENIORS' HOUSING SUITABLE FOR A LIFETIME

WHEREAS seniors in Canada have the right to affordable and appropriate housing regardless of ethnicity, cultural background, gender identity or disability;

WHEREAS there is an acute shortage of affordable public and non-market housing for seniors on fixed incomes, particularly indigenous and women seniors;

WHEREAS seniors desire to age in their own homes and in their own communities;

WHEREAS disability increases with age, but most homes were not designed for ready conversion for accessibility inside and outside the residence and many housing complexes for seniors were constructed without fully accessible suites;

WHEREAS the adoption of elements of universal design into planning and building regulations helps ensure that new-built and renovated housing stock is capable, at low cost, of creating homes suitable for a lifetime;

WHEREAS increasing universal housing stock would save money because it is a preventive measure that allows seniors to live at home rather than entering residential care as they grow older or develop impairments because of chronic illness or injury.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

- support the principle that the total cost of public non-market housing for seniors not exceed 30% of their gross annual income;
- institute a funding program to modify existing non-market housing for seniors to meet current health, safety and accessibility codes;
- adopt a Universal Housing Standard to regulate all new non-market housing construction in order to improve the sustainability of our housing stock and create homes that maximize independence and quality of life for seniors.

(260 words)

SENIOR LIBERALS' COMMISSION Alberta Section
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Reference: SLC Policy Paper "[Affordable Housing Options for Seniors](#)" October 2017