



SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)

INFORMATION BULLETIN

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WITH GOVERNMENT ON NON-PROFIT, SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD HOME DEVELOPMENT AND DEEPLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR OLDER ADULTS ON FIXED INCOMES

August 18, 2025

A NON-PROFIT SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES INITIATIVE FOR ONTARIO

Recently Seniors for Social Action Ontario's (SSAO) Research and Writing team had a very positive and productive meeting with senior officials at Ontario Health concerning the need for small, neighborhood homes delivered by non-profits and municipalities to support older adults living with frailty and/or cognitive disabilities. At the meeting an SSAO report on Small Neighborhood Homes was presented to Ontario Health – see

https://mcusercontent.com/36363a028fc1d1a14890ff48e/files/610e4273-7631-c044-84e6-f551d8b65aa1/SSAO_Small_Neighbourhood_Homes_Project.pdf

Ontario Health is now moving forward to plan and ultimately operationalize small neighborhood home development across Ontario.

If you are affiliated with a non-profit organization and/or a municipality or region interested in this initiative please contact SSAO at seniorsactionontario@gmail.com and we will connect you with the Ontario Health lead on this project.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACTS ON INCLUDING OLDER ADULTS IN ITS DEEPLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE

A few weeks ago, the Chair of SSAO met with the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Infrastructure and Housing and they had an excellent discussion about what was needed in the way of housing and social infrastructure for older adults to support aging in place. This brief was presented to the Parliamentary Secretary - https://www.seniorsactionontario.com/_files/ugd/50033d_e97e08743b8a4466b572e46988345ed7.pdf

This week, Build Canada Homes (BCH) - the agency charged with creating affordable housing in Canada - produced a discussion paper that included most of the points made in the meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary that will have an extremely positive effect in creating affordable, accessible housing for older adults who may require support to age in place.

Some highlights include:

- An emphasis on a mix of homes that respond to the needs of older adults on fixed incomes and other households geared to producing strong resilient communities. These can include cooperatives, community housing, and being able to use federal lands to accelerate these kinds of developments.
- Affordable housing with supportive and wraparound services focusing on those experiencing homelessness, but this also provides an opportunity for non-profit assisted living residences to be built for elders - something SSAO has long advocated as an alternative to nursing homes. Elders live in apartments with a range of integrated care services provided in the building.
- Flexible financing tailored to the needs of those partnering with BCH to build supportive housing and transitional homes.
- Build Canada Homes, in some cases, will act as a developer in varying capacities to construct housing and lease it to affordable housing providers – which could be a significant benefit to non-profit seniors serving agencies and municipalities wishing to create housing that supports aging in place.
- There is an emphasis on environmentally friendly, low carbon building materials and climate resilient construction and more modern, 21st century approaches to building homes more quickly - healthier for people and for the environment.

The full Build Canada Homes market sounding discussion paper can be found here: <https://housing-infrastructure.canada.ca/alt-format/pdf/bch-mc/market-sounding-guide-sondage-marche-en.pdf>

Seniors for Social Action Ontario will, in the coming days, be providing feedback on this discussion paper to Build Canada Homes about other housing models designed to help elders to age in place. This document will be shared with the SSAO e-mail list once it is submitted.

So much for a quiet summer!