



## **SENIORS FOR SOCIAL ACTION (ONTARIO)**

### **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

# **COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT NORCS (*NATURALLY OCCURRING RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES*)**

## **BY THE NORC INNOVATION CENTRE, UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK**

**June 10, 2026**

**NORC innovation centre report is found here: [NORC-Fact-Book.pdf](#)**

There is widespread interest in Ontario about forming Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities with social support services built in (NORC – SSPs). This is largely due to the failure of the Ontario government to foresee the impact of a very large Baby Boomer generation reaching age 80 this year. Consequently, Baby Boomers have decided to organize their own supports and services in many areas of Ontario.

In the NORC Innovation Centre's latest report, found here, [NORC-Fact-Book.pdf](#) you will locate comprehensive information about NORCs in Ontario.

### **NORC INNOVATION CENTRE, UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK'S PIONEERING ROLE**

For many years the NORC Innovation Centre (NIC) at University Health Network (UHN) has done excellent work in helping NORC-SSP's get started, and in researching existing NORCs to provide information to the public and government about them.

It defines NORCs as "buildings where at least 30 percent of residents are 65 years of age or older and where there are at least 50 of them in each building" (Pg. 15). The NIC currently supports 30 NORC buildings in the Toronto area housing approximately 4000 older adults.

"Across these sites, support varies depending on community needs and readiness, including the presence of onsite NORC Connectors in some buildings. NIC has also partnered with over 65 local organizations to deliver more targeted and coordinated health and social services that support older adults to age in place.... Through the NORC Accelerator, NIC is partnering with six lead agencies across Ontario, covering nine Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), to support the adoption of NORC Models in new communities. Registry and health profile data help these partners identify potential sites, understand local needs, and prioritize services and programs that can better support older adults to age in place" (Pg. 14).

This may help you to plan and organize your own NORC-SSPs, and also help you to approach your municipality to discuss funding support for NORC programs in your area. These could include service coordinator/community connectors attached to NORCs and taking direction from NORC volunteers.

In one example, the City of Waterloo is playing an active role in supporting NORCs

<https://www.waterloo.ca/community-support/neighbourhoods/find-activities-and-support-where-you-live/connect-with-older-adult-neighbours-norcs/>

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

**Here are some highlights of this important and comprehensive report:**

- There are 2,143 NORC Buildings in Ontario with 255,006 older adult residents;
- “Condos make up the largest proportion of NORC buildings (50.9 percent), followed by rental apartments (30.8 percent), community housing (16.7 percent), and co-ops (1.5 percent)”;
- “The cities with the largest concentrations of NORCs are Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, London, Burlington, and Mississauga. The city of Toronto is, by a wide margin, where NORCs are most abundant, with 531” followed by Ottawa (170), Hamilton (96), London (93), Burlington (84), Mississauga (81), Windsor (54), Kingston and Vaughan (48), St. Catharines (47), Oakville (45), Kitchener (43), Barrie (35), Greater Sudbury, Markham, Thunder Bay and Guelph (33), Brampton and Richmond Hill (30), Peterborough (27);
- 47% of NORC buildings are in the Greater Toronto area where 57% of all older adults live;
- “Among the 2,143 NORC buildings in Ontario, 543 have 150 or more older adults living in them”;
- NORC clusters are within walking distance of each other. “The largest cluster (by number of buildings) is located in Toronto (midtown), consisting of 17 buildings that are home to a total of 1,822 older adults, followed by a cluster of 16 NORC buildings in Burlington”. Page 10 of the report provides a breakdown of 20 NORC clusters by population.

Special thanks to the NORC Innovation Centre for producing this excellent Fact Book which will be very useful to everyone attempting to organize NORCs across Ontario.

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## REFERENCE

Innovation Centre (2024). Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in Ontario: Fact Book. Toronto, ON: NORC Innovation Centre, University Health Network Updated Edition, 2026.