



Make Community Living Real

What is an Institution



An institution is any place in which people who have been labeled as having an intellectual disability are isolated, segregated and/or congregated. An institution is any place in which people do not have, or are not allowed to exercise, control over their lives and their day to day decisions. An institution is not defined merely by its size.

End Congregate Living

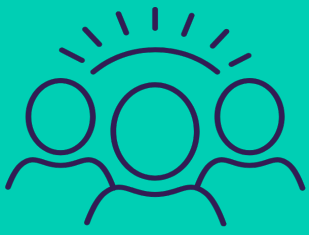
Almost 30,000 adults with developmental disabilities live in congregate residential facilities and group homes. Many want a home of their own but cannot achieve this because of the scarcity of affordable housing and staff support outside of residential facilities. Article 19 of the UN CRPD holds that people with disabilities have a right to the support services necessary to live and be included in the community, and to prevent isolation or segregation from the community.

As a party, commit to making community living a reality for all Canadians with an intellectual disability:

-Ensure that National Housing Strategy initiatives do not fund the development of housing that congregates, segregates, and/or isolates people with intellectual disabilities. Prioritize instead initiatives that develop fully inclusive housing.

-Through the modernization of federal long-term care standards, prohibit the admission of people with intellectual disabilities to nursing homes, rehabilitation centres, and long-term care residences across the country.

The United Nations has clarified that young people with disabilities should not be forced to live in settings designed for elderly people and yet in Ontario alone, roughly **3,000** younger people with developmental disabilities live in long term care homes.



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Ensure Housing Inclusivity and Affordability

People with an intellectual disability want the same housing choices as everyone else. When renting, people with an intellectual disability bear hidden costs. With a smaller pool of options to choose from, many must accept higher rents. Many people with disabilities cannot afford to purchase a home of their own.

As a party, commit to ensuring affordable and adequate housing:

- Provide people with disabilities access to targeted portable rent supplements. Add a disability component to the [*Canada Housing Benefit*](#) and establish its availability through federal/provincial agreements.
- Allow people with disabilities to withdraw funds from their [*Registered Disability Savings Plans to use as a down payment*](#) when buying a home.

