



## Affordable AND Accessible Housing in New Brunswick



### The housing crisis in NB:

- The accessibility and affordability of housing is a challenge in NB.
- There is a gap between the housing needs of New Brunswickers and what is available on the rental market.
- In February 2023, Hon. Jill Green, Minister of Housing admitted New Brunswick was in a housing crisis.

### The history of the housing crisis in NB:

- NB has a critically low vacancy rate.
- Rental housing is expensive; in 2021 NB experienced the highest rent increases in the rental market in Canada at 4.8%.
- The housing crisis is far-reaching as it has affected many New Brunswickers, especially those with a mobility disability.
- It has become extremely difficult for individuals with a mobility disability to find housing that is both affordable and accessible.
- The lack of solutions has caused record levels of homelessness and has also pushed the NB Housing waitlist above 8,000 in 2022.

### What is inclusive accessible housing?

Accessible housing has no one size fits all approach, and it goes beyond the living space.

- It can mean wheel-in showers, ramps, wider doorways, lever handles, and detachable shower heads.
- It is about being on an accessible bus route, having maintained sidewalks (i.e., regularly plowed), being able to go out and not worrying about how accessible the community is.
- It means living in a mixed-income neighborhood where persons with a mobility disability are not stigmatized.
- It is about having accessible homeless shelters and transition houses in case of emergency.



### What is affordable housing?

- Housing is considered “affordable” if it costs less than 30% of a household’s before-tax income (Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation, 2018).
- The ability to pay for all necessities after housing like food, transportation, and medical expenses.
- The ability to get out of your home to do activities that make you happy like going to the movies or having coffee with friends.

### Housing experiences from individuals with a mobility disability in NB:

We met with a diverse group of persons with a mobility disability in NB. Here is what they told us:

**Accessible housing is expensive:** “You don’t live, you don’t have the excess cash to do anything, every penny counts.”

**Housing modifications are too costly:** “Grants are available but only \$10,000 which is not enough to make an apartment accessible.”

**Lack of accessible, affordable housing is isolating.** “I am trapped not able to leave because no other options are accessible or affordable.”

**There is a disconnect with market rates for standard housing and accessible housing.** If designed correctly, they should cost the same. “Accessible housing is not market rent.”

**There is a stigma associated with accessing accessible and affordable housing.** “Stop treating us like numbers, treat us like a community.”

### What Ability NB can do for you!

If you are a person with a mobility disability and you need help finding options for affordable, accessible housing including housing modification, contact [info@abilitynb.ca](mailto:info@abilitynb.ca) or 1.866.462.9555



### Housing resources in NB

**NB Housing Programs:**  
1-833-355-3262  
[assistance@gnb.ca](mailto:assistance@gnb.ca)  
<http://surl.li/froxa>



**Canada Housing Benefit**  
1-800-282-8079  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/housing.htm>

**Residential Tenancies Tribunal**  
1-888-762-8600  
[irent@snb.ca](mailto:irent@snb.ca)  
<http://surl.li/frowa>

**Canada Revenue Agency Medical Expenses**  
(Contains information on accessibility expenses that can be claimed)  
1-800-959-8281  
<http://surl.li/frowg>

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