

A photograph of two young men with light-colored hair, wearing blue and black hockey jerseys, hugging each other. The man on the left is wearing glasses. They are both smiling. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with wooden floors.

Help  
build the  
future of  
**Inclusive  
Housing**

**We have a vision** of people with developmental disabilities living good lives in welcoming communities like everyone else.

***Inclusive housing is a key part of that vision – one that benefits everyone.***

Inclusive housing requires the understanding and participation of partners including **housing providers, developers, municipal planners and many more.**



# What does inclusive housing look like in your community?

Inclusive housing encompasses buildings, developments or neighbourhoods that are home to people with diverse life experiences, backgrounds and needs. This includes people who have been historically isolated or segregated from communities – such as people with developmental disabilities.

Successful inclusive housing offers people choice in where they live and who they live with. It fosters relationships among people and vibrant community life. It promotes safety and also allows people to experience life in a neighbourhood. Usually it looks like housing for most other people, however, it needs to be:

- Affordable
- Welcoming and community-facing
- Close to community amenities such as recreation, transit, shopping, medical services
- Physically accessible (in some cases)



## Who needs inclusive housing?



### ***People with developmental disabilities***

We are people with diverse abilities, talents and challenges. We have much to contribute as neighbours, employees, family members and strive to be full citizens in our communities. However, we often experience negative stereotypes, discrimination and lack of choice in our lives. We may need help with some parts of our life. Some people with developmental disabilities need paid support services and many do not. Usually, once people get to know us they realize we are more alike than different.

### ***You***

Welcoming neighbourhoods, towns and cities all benefit from inclusion. The movement to empower and include people with developmental disabilities in our communities is called community living. Examples of the benefits of inclusion abound: writing and speaking in plain language benefits people who have English as a second language; accessibility for people who use wheel chairs benefits parents pushing strollers and travellers pulling suitcases; inclusive employment produces more positive and productive workplaces.

# Why should you consider inclusive housing for your project or town?

## ***It works***

There is a strong business case for it, proven by examples of success both in B.C. and beyond. This includes new builds and pre-existing and/or renovated buildings.

## ***People stay longer and often have strong supports***

Those with diverse needs and abilities make good tenants. When there is a good fit, they love their homes and their neighbours and they stay put. They also typically have family support, a service provider staff that provides support, monitoring and troubleshooting, and a CLBC facilitator to assist with problem solving and advice.



## ***Demand for inclusive housing is growing***

The number of people served by CLBC is growing. More and more want inclusive housing options. Some are middle-aged and living with aging parents. Some are young and have grown up in inclusive schools. They expect to live more typical lives including having a job and their own apartment or home.

## ***There is public money to do it***

Recently announced federal and provincial affordable housing funding includes people with developmental disabilities among the target groups.

## ***Families are willing to invest in it***

Many families have assets and income. They are interested in inclusive housing and the security of home ownership and are willing partners.

## ***It strengthens community for everyone***

Inclusive housing offers ways for people of many walks of life to connect and interact. Everyone has something to offer. Diverse, connected communities are better places to live.

## ***It's the right thing to do***

Many people with developmental disabilities have low incomes and need affordable housing options. They may also face discrimination in the rental market or may live in housing that isn't the right fit to meet their needs.

## ***It's the law***

Canada has international commitments that affirm the right of people with disabilities to live independently and to be included in their community.



# Contact CLBC to discuss the possibilities

CLBC funds supports for people with developmental disabilities to live, work and participate in their community. However, our mandate does not include creating housing. So we need to help others understand the benefits to our communities of creating affordable and accessible housing options for those we serve.

Partnerships are the name of the game. No one player has all the expertise and capacity to make it happen alone. Collaborations among people and organizations with experience in community living, housing, financing and planning are the way to go.

To learn more about how you can participate, check out our housing information online at:

**[www.CommunityLivingBC.ca/InclusiveHousing](http://www.CommunityLivingBC.ca/InclusiveHousing)**



## Community Living British Columbia

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If you have any questions or would like more information:



Please call our free number:  
1-877-660-2522



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[www.communitylivingbc.ca](http://www.communitylivingbc.ca)

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