

# Visitability Project

Collaborative Knowledge Building and Action for  
Visitable Housing in Canadian Cities

Canadian Centre on Disability Studies

November 2013

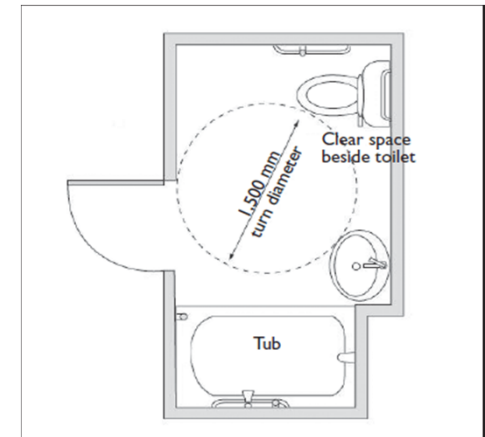
# Canadian Centre on Disability Studies (CCDS)

- A consumer-directed, university-affiliated centre
- Dedicated to research, education and information mobilization on disability issues
- Promoting full and equal participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of society – locally, nationally and internationally
- Previous work on Visitable housing – Literature review, Stakeholders Survey, and National Think Tank

# Definition of Visitable Homes

## Three Visitability Features:

- 1) One level, no-step entrance (at the front, back or side of the house )
- 2) Wider doorways and clear passage on the main floor (minimum 32")
- 3) A wheelchair accessible bathroom on the main floor



# Definition of Visitable Homes

## Visitability is NOT:

- fully accessible, universal design
- applied to the upper floors or the basement

# Project Goal and Objectives

## ❖ **Goal**

To promote Visitable housing for all Canadians

## ❖ **Objectives**

1. To increase understanding of Visitable housing (current policies and practices, impacts, barriers, and best practices)
2. To increase the awareness of Visitable housing
3. To develop and implement strategies to promote Visitable housing

# Project Participants

## National Advisory Committee

- 9 members
- Consumer representatives
- Policy makers
- Building professionals

## CCDS Project Team

- Project manager
- CCDS Interim Executive Director
- Communications Coordinator and Policy Analyst

## 7 Task Forces

- 5-7 members
- Consumer representatives
- Policy makers
- Building professionals

# Key Project Activities

- Research on VISIBLE Housing (Literature review, environmental scan, policy review, interviews with stakeholders)
- Creating a resource database
- VISIBLE housing design contest
- Online campaign for VISIBLE housing
- VISIBILITY website (<http://visiblehousingcanada.com>)
- VISIBILITY Facebook Group (<https://facebook.com/visiblehousingcanada>)
- Development of information/promotional materials
- Task force activities

# Task Forces: Goal and Members

## ❖ Goal

To promote Visitable housing in their municipality.

Task forces will develop strategies to promote Visitable housing in their municipality and implement identified strategies in the municipality.

## ❖ Task Force Members

- 2-3 representatives of consumers
- 3-5 representatives of housing professionals, and
- 1-2 representatives of policy makers

One of the task force members plays the role of coordinator in the group.



# Task Force Activities in Two Phases

## **Phase I (November 2013 – July 2014)**

- Review current policies and practices related to Visitable housing
- Share the concept of and information about Visitable housing with others
- Brainstorm strategies (e.g., policies, practices, awareness) to promote Visitable housing

## **Phase II (September 2014 – September 2015)**

- Determine strategies to promote Visitable housing in the municipality
- Develop and carry out an action plan to implement the identified strategies.

# **Task Forces: Responsibilities, Resources & Reports**

**Refer to the Task Force Terms of Reference**