



November 10, 2005

Mr. W. Morley
Chair
York Region Accessibility
Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Morley:

RE: September 28, 2005 – Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

Following the Housing Services Division presentation at the September AAC meeting, staff is pleased to offer responses to the outstanding questions asked by the committee.

Question #1

Provide a detailed breakdown of the number of modified units in the Region by site and senior vs. non-senior.

In 2001, the provincial government transferred the responsibility of maintaining 326 modified units within the social housing portfolio in York Region. This number represents approximately 8% of the prescribed total number of rent-geared-to-income units. Over the years, units have been modified across the housing portfolio and some units have been re-evaluated as not accessible for persons with disabilities.

As a result, the Housing Services Department is currently working with housing providers and a consultant to develop a detailed inventory of all modified and special needs units in the portfolio. This information will be made available in early 2006 to the committee and be on the Region's web-based site to assist persons with disabilities in search of affordable rental housing.

For the committee's information, please see attached a five page "Applicant Building Selection" form that identifies senior/non-senior projects and the availability of modified units by bedroom type. This form will be updated once the inventory project is complete.

Question #2

Why is there not a priority waiting list for persons with disabilities accessing modified units?

The provincial regulations prescribe only a priority category for applicants who need affordable rental housing to leave an abusive relationship.

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Under provincial regulations, modified units can only be rented to persons with disabilities who require the modifications. In effect, persons with disabilities have exclusive priority for these units.

Unmodified units in social housing projects that are tenanted under agreements with support agencies, such as The March of Dimes, are not included in the modified unit count.

In addition, a number of service managers across Ontario have asked the province to amend the regulations to transfer the responsibility for modified unit waiting lists from housing providers to the service manager's centralized waiting list.

Question #3

What features are available in Housing York Inc. building elevators for persons with hearing and visual impairments?

As part of its regular on-going maintenance program, Housing York Inc. is upgrading elevators to include enhancements for persons with disabilities and hearing and visual impairments. These elevator upgrades are part of a multi-year plan. Some recent upgrades include:

- elevator panel inside the cab is set at a height that allows persons in wheelchairs to easily access the button panel and view the digital floor display;
- beginning in 2006, enhancements will include illuminated digital floor numbers in the push buttons;
- digital floor displays are relocated from above the elevator door to the control panel for improved visibility;
- digital car position indicators on each floor to assist tenants in determining the location of the elevator;
- an auditory signal (bell sound) to let tenants know what floor they are passing or have stopped at;
- elevator control panels have larger Arabic numbers displayed, Braille numbers beside each floor button as well as ancillary buttons for telephone, alarm etc.; and
- elevator door controls are being upgraded to use infra-red door protection rather the "nudging bar" that more quickly reverses the door direction once it makes contact. The infra-red system reverses the door as soon as an object intercepts one of a number of infra-red beams. This feature reduces the incidence of persons being bumped by the elevator doors.

Question #4

What enhancements are being considered for persons with hearing and visual impairments in the proposed Stickwood Farm housing project in the Town of Newmarket ?

The Region is partnering with the Canadian Hearing Society (CHS) to meet the needs of 5-7 households in the proposed Stickwood Walker Farm affordable rental housing project. The Region has not commenced design work on this housing project, however, preliminary meetings

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with CHS staff highlighted the following enhancements for consideration in the building design program:

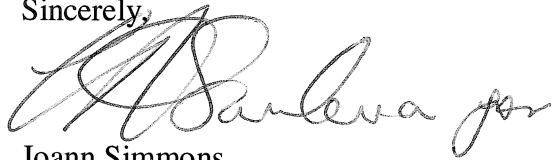
- building entry system to alert tenants that they have visitors at the lobby front door;
- provision of individual suite door signalling device;
- smoke detectors with strobe lights strategically placed within the apartment; and
- strobe lights located in the common areas of the building (eg. laundry room, common washroom and meeting room).

Region staff will continue to consult the CHS and other resources to ensure the most appropriate features are incorporated into the building design of the Stickwood Walker Farm housing project for persons with various disabilities.

In addition, we will review and where appropriate make recommendations for enhancements to future housing projects as detailed in the Canadian National Institute for the Blind publication titled "Clearing Our Path".

In closing, if there are any questions or comments with the foregoing, please contact Gabe Tropea, Manager of Housing Development and Homelessness Initiatives, at 905-830-4444 ext 2095 or e-mail: gabe.tropea@york.ca.

Sincerely,



Joann Simmons
Commissioner
Community Services and Housing Department

Attachment

Copy: S. Patterson
G. Tropea

Applicant Building Selection

Applicant(s) Name(s): _____ Client #: _____

- To live in seniors housing a member of your household must be at least 60 years old.
- You can be added to a waiting list of a seniors building if a member of your household is at least 58 years old.

Explanation of Symbols:

♿ - Some accessible units in this bedroom size are available at this location

Social Housing Type:

Co-op Co-operative

NP Non Profit

HYI Housing York Inc.

RS Rent Supplement – from time to time, rent supplement units may become available in York Region. The Region negotiates agreements with various landlords and pays the difference between market rent and the rent geared to the income of the tenant.

Building Type:

Apt Apartment

TH Townhouse

R Row House

Check ONLY the white boxes. Do not check shaded areas.

Check ONLY the white boxes. Do not check shaded areas.						Number of Bedrooms (✓ white box to select choice)				
Site	Address	Social Housing Type	Tenant Type	Building Type	# of Units	Bachelor	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom	4 bedroom
AURORA										
Charles Darrow	135 James Henry Drive	Co-op	All	TH	107				☐	
Machell's Corners Co-op	165 Preston Thompson Place	Co-op	All	TH	67				☐	
Hadley Grange	16105 Yonge Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	80		☐			
Housing York Inc.	55 Orchard Heights Blvd	HYI	Senior	Apt	22					
Housing York Inc.	57 Orchard Heights Blvd	HYI	Senior	Apt	61					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
EAST GWILLIMBURY										
Holland Landing										
Oxford Village	84 Oakridge Court	HYI	Senior	Apt	36		☐			
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
GEORGINA										
Jackson's Point										
Our Lady of Smolensk	81 Alexander Blvd	NP	Senior	Apt	35		☐			
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						

Check ONLY the white boxes. Do not check shaded areas.

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Site	Address	Social Housing Type	Tenant Type	Building Type	# of Units	Bachelor	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom	4 bedroom
Keswick										
Bethany Co-op	45 Atherton Crescent	Co-op	All	Apt &TH	68			6		
Glenwood Mews	64 Patchell Crescent	HYI	All	TH	64			6		
Keswick Gardens	43 The Queensway North	HYI	Senior	Apt	120		6	6		
Housing York Inc.	190 Church Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	49					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
Pefferlaw										
Rixon Manor	1 Pete's Lane	NP	Senior	Apt	26		6			
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
Sutton										
Housing York Inc.	35 East Street	HYI	All	TH	10					
Housing York Inc.	37 North Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	40					
Housing York Inc.	39 North Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	32					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
KING										
King City										
Housing York Inc.	90 Dew Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	27					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
Nobleton										
Housing York Inc.	48 Wilsen Road	HYI	Senior	Apt	26					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
Schomberg										
Kitchen Breedon	40 Rosalena Avenue	NP	Senior	Apt	32		6	6		
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
MARKHAM										
Markham										
Calvary Manor	7011 McCowan Road	NP	All	Apt	100		6	6		
Hagerman Corners	4460 14 th Avenue	NP	All	Apt	81		6			
Robinson Street	120 Robinson Street	NP	All	TH	26		6			

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Site	Address	Social Housing Type	Tenant Type	Building Type	# of Units	Number of Bedrooms (✓white box to select choice)				
						Bachelor	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom	4 bedroom
Markham Cont'd										
Trinity Square	37 Bates Way	NP	All	Apt & TH	100					
Thomson Court	1 Thomson Court	NP	Senior	Apt	118					
Cedarcrest Manor	20 Water Street	NP	Senior	Apt	150					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
Thornhill										
Thornhill Green Co-op	61- 5 Inverlochy Blvd	Co-op	All	TH	101					
Annswell Court	25 Thornhill Summit Drive	NP	Senior	Apt	39					
St Luke's Lodge	49 Green Lane	NP	Senior	Apt	96					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
Unionville										
Kin Village	1 Founders Way	NP	All	TH	187					
Heritage Village	100 Anna Russell Way	NP	Senior	TH	91					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
NOTE: All one bedroom units at Kin Village are wheelchair accessible.										
NEWMARKET										
Alison Court	1029 Pritchard Place	NP	All	TH	48					
Bogart Creek Co-op	180 Groves Terrace	Co-op	All	TH	40					
Brayfield Manor	919 Bray Circle	HYI	All	TH	81					
Carpenter's Local 27 Housing Co-op	280 Davis Drive	Co-op	All	Apt	119					
German Canadian	737 Stonehaven Blvd	NP	All	Apt & TH	90					
Heritage East	351 Crowder Blvd	HYI	All	Apt	66					
Manor Green	400 Crossland Gate	NP	All	Apt	101					
Trinity Glen	2 United Circle	NP	All	TH	90					
Mulock Village	507 Needler Cres	HYI	All	TH	104					
Heritage East	349 Crowder Blvd	HYI	Senior	Apt	54					

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Site	Address	Social Housing Type	Tenant Type	Building Type	# of Units	Bachelor	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom	4 bedroom
NEWMARKET CONT'D										
German Canadian	735 Stonehaven Blvd	NP	Senior	Apt	45					
Cedarview Lodge	925 Davis Drive	NP	Senior	Apt	119					
Housing York Inc.	468 Eagle Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	97					
Housing York Inc.	474 Eagle Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	56					
Housing York Inc.	540 Timothy Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	100					
Armitage Gardens	200 Eagle Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	58					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
RICHMOND HILL										
Centre Green Co-op	172 Centre Street	Co-op	All	TH	42					
Genesis Place	39/41 Crosby Avenue	NP	All	Apt	212					
Ja'Fari Islamic Housing	138 Yorkland Street, #62	NP	All	Apt &TH	170					
John Fitzpatrick Co-op	105 Weldrick Rd E	Co-op	All	Apt &TH	180					
Jubilee Gardens	102 Yorkland Street	NP	All	TH	100					
Landsberg Lewis Co-op	46 Berwick Crescent	Co-op	All	TH	149					
Observatory Towers	25/35 Marshall Street	NP	All	Apt	350					
Richmond Hill Co-op	8675 Bayview Ave. Unit 39	Co-op	All	TH	105					
Springbrook Gardens	50 Silver Linden Drive	HYI	All	TH	93					
St Matthew's Non Profit	325 Crosby Avenue	NP	All	Apt &TH	23					
Rosetown	125 Pugsley Avenue	HYI	Senior	Apt	125					
Oakwill Non Profit Homes	220 Sunset Beach Rd	NP	Senior	R	26					
Housing York Inc.	71 Dunlop Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	80					
Housing York Inc.	75 Dunlop Street	HYI	Senior	Apt	56					

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Check ONLY the white boxes. Do not check shaded areas.

Site	Address	Social Housing Type	Tenant Type	Building Type	# of Units	Number of Bedrooms (✓ white box to select choice)				
						Bachelor	1 bedroom	2 bedroom	3 bedroom	4 bedroom
RICHMOND HILL CONT'D										
Housing York Inc.	76 Dunlop Street	HYI	Senior	A	67					
Housing York Inc.	78 Dunlop Street	HYI	Senior	A	66					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
VAUGHAN										
Thornhill										
OHR Somayach	601 Clark Ave West	NP	All	Apt	125		6	6		
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
Woodbridge										
Woodbridge Lane	64 Abell Ave.	HYI	All	TH	14				6	
Blue Willow Terrace	133 Fieldstone Drive	HYI	Senior	A	60		6			
Friuli Benevolent Corp	60 Friuli Court	NP	Senior	A	113		6	6		
St. Peter's Residences	100 Bainbridge Ave.	NP	Senior	A	65		6	6		
Legion Wood Apts	33 Thistlewood Ave.	NP	Senior	A	30		6	6		
Housing York Inc.	275 Woodbridge Ave.	HYI	Senior	A	32					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
Maple										
Maple Manor	2185 Major Mackenzie Dr.	NP	Senior	A	31		6			
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						
WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE										
Stouffville										
Parkview Village	12184 Ninth Line	NP	Senior	A	124					
Housing York Inc.	325 Elm Road	HYI	Senior	A	51					
RGI unit in another building in this municipality		RS	Family	Apt						