

Converting Commercial Properties for Senior Housing (#3055)

WHEREAS there is a lack of affordable and accessible housing for the growing aging population;

WHEREAS there are many independent seniors living on limited funds, including pensions, where senior living properties are out of reach financially

WHEREAS there is not enough access to affordable housing to ensure that low income seniors can safely live by themselves;

WHEREAS low income seniors experience many barriers to affordable housing and few facilities are set up for the needs of seniors;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to make the necessary programs that would provide a solution to the affordable housing shortage by converting commercial units to residential;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, if the empty/abandoned building already exists, the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to encourage municipalities to allow for a change of use bylaw in order for commercial properties to be converted, such as rezoning and permits, thus provide rebates to builders to help retrofit commercial space;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Liberal Party of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

- develop tax incentive programs, CMHC loans, and other options to encourage builders to sign up;
- allow seniors in low cost housing to apply for a rental subsidy should the landlord increase the rent beyond the 30% of income threshold;
- develop an incentive program for landlords to ensure that their senior tenants can continue to live in their dwellings.

Submitted by: SLCA

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Background Paper:

<http://slc-cal.liberal.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2020/07/Affordable-Housing-for-Seniors-Background-Paper.pdf>