SOLVING THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
When Chris came to Reena, he was in crisis. Like many Ontarians with developmental disabilities, Chris was unable to find a living situation that could accommodate his needs. Christopher has complex needs and there was no program that would allow him to live his life fully in a home-like environment while receiving the medical care he required. His goal was to find an environment that would complement the fully-integrated life he lived with his family and community until he was an adult. He wanted to enjoy his independence, living on his own in an apartment with social opportunities, volunteer work, and the ability to attend programs that would enrich his life. He also wanted to keep a close relationship with his family.

Chris and his family needed a long-term, sustainable solution, and they turned to Reena for help. The newly completed Reena Community Residence (RCR) offered a unique opportunity.

Chris is now supported by a team of nurses and Reena staff who work together to provide holistic care. He is surrounded by his peers and has developed friendships and found a voice as an outspoken member of the RCR Tenants’ Council. He expands his horizons in Reena’s Pathways program and contributes to the planning and shopping for his own personal needs. Chris is living a dynamic and active life as his health permits each day. The best outcome for Chris is that he hasn’t been hospitalized since he made the move to the RCR in 2013. His quality of care has improved while reducing his costs to the health care system.

Chris is supported as a whole person in his new home, and is able to live as independently as possible, surrounded by community and family.

**THERE IS SOMEONE LIKE CHRIS IN EVERY COMMUNITY.**
SUPPORT A 5% INVESTMENT

The Intentional Community Consortium (ICC) would like to thank the federal government for listening to the voices of those with developmental disabilities and creating a National Housing Strategy that speaks to their unique housing needs.

OUR PROPOSAL

The ICC is calling on the Provincial government to allocate 5% of all new housing dollars and on the federal government to implement and exceed their National Housing Strategy commitment to build affordable housing for those with developmental disabilities. Each individual housed appropriately, with supports, saves dollars from local health budgets over a stay in hospital or Long Term Care facility.

In particular, we are seeking support for the development of several mixed-use affordable housing projects for those with developmental disabilities in Ontario. We are seeking a two-thirds combined federal/provincial matching grant of $66 million to implement the project. Members of the ICC commit to raising one-third of funding through private donors and lenders.

The Intentional Community Consortium can deliver on the commitment to build strong communities and help vulnerable Canadians obtain a home.
GROWING NATIONAL CHALLENGES

Faced by individuals with developmental disabilities*

TO PUT THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE

• About 100,000 Ontario adults have an intellectual disability. An estimated 40% or 40,000 of these individuals also have a concurrent mental health diagnosis.

• An estimated 14,000 individuals with an intellectual disability in Ontario are on a non-municipal waiting list for residential supports / affordable housing, with a projected 40 year wait time.

INVESTMENT

from all levels of government would provide affordable solutions to these challenges

5%

HOMELESSNESS

18% of people who are in shelters have a developmental disability¹

HEALTH

50% live with significant medical issues²

ABUSE

Women with a developmental disability are 65% more likely to experience abuse

POVERTY

90% live below the poverty line, need deeply affordable $489 rent

¹ Dr. Sylvain Roy, PhD, President, Ontario Psychological Association
² Health Care Access Research and Developmental Disabilities (H-CARDD)
INTRODUCING THE CONSORTIUM

OUR PLAN

Building on the success of projects like Reena Community Residence in Vaughan and KW Habilitation in Kitchener, and with the support of the Ontario Government, Reena has created the Intentional Community Consortium with other agencies across Ontario to pilot a series of affordable housing projects for mixed use to be scaled out across Canada.

Using the scale and shared learning possible, with the combined strength of our partner organizations, will result in the creation of hundreds of housing units designed for individuals with developmental disabilities. Each partnership will serve local needs as identified by local service partners and funders.

MEMBERS*

Anand Vihar - the Centre for Dignified Living . . . Markham / Stouffville, ON
Beth Tikvah .................................................. Hamilton, ON
CAFFI - Caledon Area Families for Inclusion . . . . . . . Caledon, ON
Camphill Communities ................................ Essa Township, ON
Centre Miriam Home .................................................. Montreal, QC
Christian Horizons .................................................. Ontario Wide
Community Living Elmira .......................................... Elmira, ON
Community Living Hamilton ........................................ Hamilton, ON
Community Living South Muskoka ................................ Bracebridge, ON
Cribwolf Foundation ................................................ Halton Region, ON
Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation ........ Oshawa, ON
KW Habilitation .................................................. Kitchener / Waterloo Region, ON
Operation Springboard .............................................. Toronto, ON
Array Services ......................................................... Peterborough, ON
Reena ............................................................... Vaughan, ON
St. Stephen’s Presbyterian Church ............................... Scarborough, ON
Tamir ................................................................. Ottawa, ON

* as of January 2019
SPACE AND QUALITY OF LIFE
THREE ABILITY CHALLENGES: AFFORD-ABILITY, ACCESS-ABILITY, SUPPORT-ABILITY

THE MODEL

The supply of affordable, accessible, and supportive housing for people with disabilities remains far less than the need. Being part of the community and living independently are among the most important values and goals shared by people with disabilities, their families, and advocates. A home of one’s own is the cornerstone of independence for people with disabilities.

KW HABILITATION
Kitchener, ON

This housing model, developed by Kitchener-Waterloo Habilitation, was completed and occupied in 2018. It hosts 20 self-contained, independent apartment units for persons with development disabilities. Kitchener-Waterloo Habilitation is now developing a second location.

LOU FRUITMAN REENA RESIDENCE
Vaughan, ON

This housing model is being planned by Reena on lands acquired from the City of Vaughan and a neighbouring private developer in York Region. The building will contain approximately 80 independent self-contained one, two and three bedroom apartment units for persons with developmental disabilities. Construction is targeted to start in 2019.

TAMIR INTEGRATED LIVING CENTRE
Ottawa, ON

This new project, the first of its kind in Ottawa, will provide a variety of supportive housing and other services to people with developmental and physical disabilities, within a fully inclusive environment under one roof.

CAMPHILL COMMUNITY ONTARIO (CCO)
Angus, ON

This is a unique project being developed on a rural property adjacent to the Town of Angus in Simcoe County, Ontario. The development will consist of 20 individual and cluster units that will be occupied by Camphill staff on a life lease basis and by persons with developmental disabilities on a rental basis. Construction is targeted for 2020.
ACT NOW IN YOUR COMMUNITY

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES PROVIDE

- Greater independence
- An open & inclusive environment
- Seamless delivery of support services
- Opportunities for personal growth
- Personalized solutions for complex needs

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Take action and assist the most vulnerable, whose needs are often overlooked.

1) **Get Data** – find out how many individuals in your community have developmental disabilities and require housing with supports – contact Developmental Services Ontario at [http://www.dsontario.ca/agencies](http://www.dsontario.ca/agencies) or your local Provincial / Federal provider.

2) **Partner** with local agencies serving those with developmental disabilities – contact OASIS (Ontario Agencies Supporting Individuals with Special Needs) at [http://oasisonline.ca/](http://oasisonline.ca/) for partner referrals.

3) **Hold** all parties accountable to quickly implement and exceed the federal government’s National Housing Strategy target to build at least 2,400 new affordable units for people with developmental disabilities. It is imperative for provincial and territorial government to sign appropriate bi-lateral agreements to make this a reality.

4) **Contact** the Intentional Communities Consortium, at [http://intentionalcommunities.ca/](http://intentionalcommunities.ca/) to find out about efforts underway for multiple unit dwellings and how your community can participate.

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR PEOPLE LIKE CHRIS.
"Reena is proud to partner with Ontario and other developmental service agencies as part of the Intentional Community Consortium to develop our innovative community residence model for adults with developmental disabilities. It's projects like these that will make a difference in the lives of the segment of the population we work so hard to serve."

Bryan Keshen - President & CEO, Reena