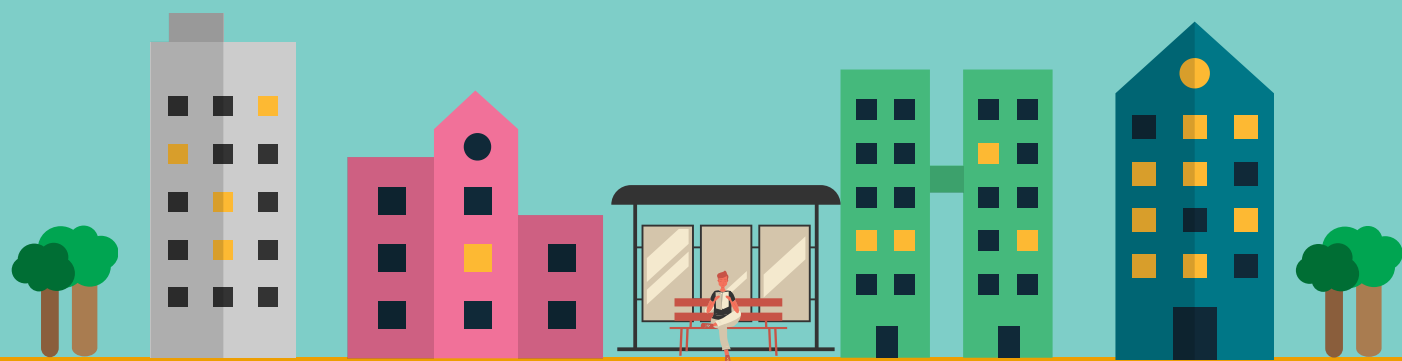




# A RIGHT TO HOUSING



A reimagining of community planning



## Current Costs

What are the costs of unsustainable housing options on individuals and the environment?

**\$962,774**

**AVERAGE PRICE FOR TORONTO MLS**  
(as of Q3 2020)



The pandemic has increased sales and prices of single-detached homes as low-income households were priced out of the market [1]

**36.6%**

**OF TORONTONIANS LIVE IN UNAFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
(as per 2016 Census)



Unaffordable housing is the percentage of private households spending >30% of their total household income on shelter costs [2]

**12.6 M**

**CANADIANS COMMUTE TO WORK BY CAR**  
(as per 2015 study)



Average duration of car commutes are 24 minutes, and median distance to workplace was 8.7 kms [3]

**157%**

**INCREASE OF BUILT-UP AREA IN CANADA FROM 1971-2011**  
(as per 2011 census study)



Urban sprawl has accelerated the conversion of arable and natural land to the detriment of natural capital and ecosystem goods and services [4]

## HOUSING UNAFFORDABILITY & URBAN SPRAWL ARE RESULTS OF ECONOMIC INEQUITY & A CULTURE OF CONSUMPTION MATCHING

- Systemic economic inequities bar low-income households from purchasing homes while high-income households see their assets appreciate over time [1]
- Private property is a Western ideological construct that perpetuates power and class divides as well as the concept of consumption matching to realize the "North American Dream" [5]
- The cultural desire for home ownership (whether for class status or as a means of social mobility), leads households to settle for being "house poor" in the city centres or prioritizing affordability and living in a neighbourhood that is further away from economic opportunities in city centres, leading to urban sprawl and perpetuity of economic inequity [4,6,7]
- 81% of housing survey respondents would rather live in walkable urban/suburban neighbourhoods close to amenities and rapid public transit—if housing costs were not a factor[8]
- The housing market is an example of a flawed market solution that leaves the sheltering of people to private developers

## Potential Solutions

A majority of people care more about where they live in relation to the community around them and not what they live in. On an individual level we must challenge our internal treadmills that lead us to consumption matching and equating private property with success. On a systemic level we must hold all branches of government accountable for the right to housing for all. We need to build up instead of out in order to conserve natural lands and ensure inclusive communities. Investment in smart city growth will invest in both natural capital and human capital.

**FREQUENT AND RAPID PUBLIC TRANSIT**



Access to affordable, frequent, and rapid public transit is a priority for residents [8,11]. The option to take public transportation would reduce reliance on personal vehicles and reduce GHG emissions [4].

**INCREASE SUPPLY OF HOUSING VIA MEDIUM-HIGH DENSITY HOUSING**



Residents are willing to reduce their house size for city access [8]. Medium density housing increases supply to meet demand to address affordability issues while also retaining neighbourhood aesthetic and feel [9].

**REZONE LAND IN GROWING METROPOLITAN AREAS TO PRIORITIZE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE OVER PRIVATE PROPERTY**



Shared green space, public walk/bike trails, urban community farms are all examples of public infrastructure that could increase appeal of higher density living and increase community cohesion [10,11].

**MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS TO LEASE PUBLIC LANDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**



Land that is owned by the taxpayers should be leased to organizers and developers to produce and manage affordable and dignified housing. Municipal governments have the power to prioritize the right to housing for the community over profits [12].

In order to achieve **environmental justice**—across social space, species, and time—we must ensure that individuals are provided **dignified housing** options that will not perpetuate cycles of inequity, will allow for social mobility, while also preserving **healthy ecosystems** and natural capital for **generations to come**.

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