



## Fact Sheet # 2

# Resources for Older Adults: Housing Options<sup>1</sup>

**Social Housing for Seniors<sup>2</sup>** is affordable housing available for seniors, with low to moderate income. The owner of this type of housing may include private landlords with rent supplement units, municipalities who own public housing or non-profit/co-operative corporations who own housing projects. **Contact** a Toronto **Housing Connections** representative at **416-981-6111** to find out how to apply for social housing.

**Co-operative Housing** is a legal association formed for the purpose of providing homes to its members on a continuing basis. A co-op is different from other housing associations in its ownership structure and its commitment to co-operative principles. For further information, **contact** the **your local CCAC** or the **Regional Office of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada** at **1-800-268-2537**

**Retirement Homes<sup>3</sup>** are private businesses that sell combinations of accommodation, support services and personal care (prices vary widely in accordance with the type of accommodation and range of services selected). Retirement homes are nearly all for-profit facilities, and care and support services in these settings are neither directly funded nor regulated by the provincial government. However, some tenants may qualify for services funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care through Community Care Access Centres (e.g. visiting nurses or therapists). For more information contact **Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA)** at **1-800-267-6272** [www.ocsa.on.ca](http://www.ocsa.on.ca) or **Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors** at **905-851-8821** or [www.oanhss.org](http://www.oanhss.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Much of the content of this fact sheet is excerpted from the Ontario Seniors Secretariat's Information Guide. The entire guide can be found at <http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/seniors/english/programs/seniorsguide/>

<sup>2</sup> This type of tenancy is regulated by the Social Housing Reform Act (SHRA)

<sup>3</sup> This type of tenancy is regulated by the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA)

**Supportive Housing**<sup>4</sup> programs (mostly run by nonprofits with the provision of support services funded through the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care) provide on-site personal support services for seniors living as tenants in designated residential buildings such as a seniors' building. Services include personal support/attendant services, essential homemaking services, and staff available 24-hours a day. For more information call your local Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) or contact the **Ontario Association of Non-Profit Homes and Services for Seniors (OANHSS)** at **905-851-8821**

**Adult Lifestyle/Retirement Communities** provide independent residences that combine home ownership with social and recreational activities. **Local real estate agents** are your point of **contact**.

**Life Lease Housing** is a form of housing tenure similar in appearance to a condominium. Typically, life lease housing is operated by non-profit or charitable institutions. A tenant is granted the right to occupy a dwelling unit in return for an up-front payment and monthly maintenance fee payment. If you are considering this option **contact** the **Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Market Housing Branch**, at **416-585-6541**.

### **Complaints Response and Information Service**

Seniors and their families can call the Retirement Home Complaints Response and Information Service to get help with understanding the differences between various housing options, the services and level of care provided in different settings, local regulations governing retirement homes and help resolving problems experienced with any retirement homes. **Contact 1-800-361-7254**

This resource is available at <http://www.aging.utoronto.ca>

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<sup>4</sup> This type of residency can be regulated under either SHRA and RTA