



Fact Sheet # 1

Resources for Older Adults: Information and Resources to Improve Your Housing and Support Your Independence

A. Homeowner/Landlord Subsidies For Modifications to Your Housing

- You may claim product and renovation costs as a Medical Expense: e.g. the **Disability Tax Credit Certificate T2201** (Canada) available online at <http://www.cra.ca/E/pbg/tf/t2201/> OR call **1-800-959-8281**
- **Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC)** "Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence" (HASI) and "Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program" (RRAP) programs offer forgivable loans and other forms of financial assistance to eligible homeowners and landlords for renovations and repairs. For more information on eligibility and levels of financing available see the CMHC website: <http://www.cmhcschl.gc.ca/en/inpr/prfias/index.cfm> or in Ontario call **1-800-704-6488**
- **Department of Veterans Affairs-Veterans Independence Program** offers financial assistance to veterans and their caregivers for housing modifications and maintenance. For more information access their website @ <http://www.vacc.gc.ca/providers/sub.cfm?source=services/vip#what> or call 1-866-522-2122
- **Some individual companies provide financing e.g Seabridge Bathing (1-800-330-3307)** or visit the website @ <http://www.seabridgebathing.com/funding-walk-in-bath.html#cdn>

B. Renters Rights & Landlord Responsibility to “Accommodate” your Needs

- The **Ontario Human Rights Code** (the “Code”) maintains that housing providers have a “duty to accommodate” (short of “undue hardship”) the needs of those who are experiencing disablement (physical or otherwise) according to the principles of respect for dignity, individual accommodation and integration and full participation. For example, a landlord cannot refuse to build a ramp for a tenant who requires a walker on the basis that only one person requires it. The Code also protects older adults from age discrimination by landlords. For more information call the **Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation 416-944-0087** or call the **Ontario Human Rights Commission at 1-800-387-9080**

C. Homeowners and Renters Information and Guides to Improve Your Housing and Support Your Independence

- **Ontario’s Seniors’ Secretariat** has an online guide to programs and services (in seven languages) available @ <http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/seniors/english/programs/seniorsguide/> as well as a **multi-lingual telephone information line 1-888-910-1999**
- **Human Resources and Social Development Canada** has a comprehensive guide on simple modifications and “tips” for older adults living at home, called: **Aids to Independent Living: Breaking Through the Barriers** available at http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/odi/documents/independentLiving/00_toc.shtml
- In Canada, **Aroga Assistive Technology** offers various supports to independence available online @ http://www.aroga.com/default_en.asp or **call 1-877-551-6222**
- In the US, **Dynamic Living** (ships to Canada) offers kitchen products (including a “stove guard” that turns off your electric stove when you leave the room), bathroom helpers and unique daily living aids online that promote a convenient, comfortable and safe home environment for people of all ages @ <http://www.dynamic-living.com> or call **1-888-940-0605**