

## Renters Checklist

When searching for rental housing, some planning can help make your search easier and more effective.

### Before you view rental housing:

- Consider the possibility of not being able to access the unit. Think about driving past it or use Google street view, or just give the landlord a heads up about your situation
- Before you arrive, try to learn whether you'll be able to maneuver inside the space and whether you need to bring someone to help you in and out
- Ask if it has the most basic accessibility features you need
- Consider whether you now need or plan to have a caregiver living with you or frequently being in and out of the space. What might this mean for your needs?

### When you see the unit:

#### Outside

- If you are driving or using a personal vehicle, check to see if there is an accessible parking space. If you are a transit user, assess the proximity of transit and whether there is a zero-barrier pathway to it
- Confirm there is at least one zero-threshold entrance into the home
- If you are a wheelchair user, determine whether there is sufficient space at entry (both interior and exterior) for a 5' turning circle

#### Inside (throughout)

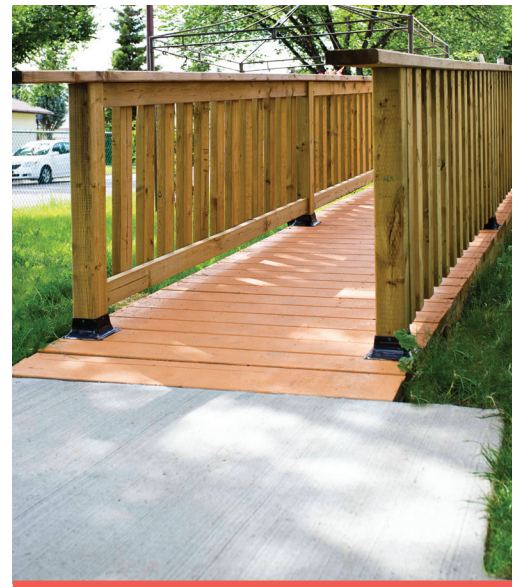
- 36" wide doorways (34" minimum) and 5' turning circles
- Lever door handles
- Hard-surface flooring with zero or minimal (1/8") thresholds

#### Bathroom

- Shower or tub that is workable for you using a shower chair or transfer bench, or a roll-in shower
- 36" doorway and a 5' turning circle within the bathroom
- Access to the vanity (clearance under countertops)
- Access to the toilet
- Room for both you and your caregiver, if necessary

#### Kitchen

- 32"-34" countertop height with a depth of 24" or shallower
- Accessible sink (knee space, sink height and depth)
- Accessible stove top and oven (side-opening)
- Accessible fridge



### After you see your rental unit:

- Can you tackle some barriers with relatively simple solutions (e.g. grab bars) or other low-cost options - or are there structural barriers to you living there?
- How long do you intend to stay in the space - does it need to work for you for the next year, five years, longer? How will your mobility change?
- Assess whether you could use the space or layout in a different way that would make it work for you
- Determine whether the landlord is open to small changes, if these changes would enable or improve accessibility. Be sure to include any such agreement in the lease

The information provided on this handout is to be used for general information only and is not intended to substitute for or provide professional advice.