

# What is mixed-income affordable housing?

The mixed-income housing model integrates different rental rates for units, from deeply-subsidized affordable housing up to near-market rates. By offering some units at near-market rates, housing providers can offset the operating costs of the lower-rate units. There are no differences in quality between units offered at higher or lower rates.

### **Benefits for mixed-income housing**

- More self-sustaining, and less reliant on tax-supported government funding.
- Allows affordable housing tenants to remain in place as their income changes.
- Integrates residents of varying incomes, providing a sense of community and inclusivity.
- Gives Calgarians of varying income the opportunity to live in their neighbourhood.

# Some of the policies that guide our work:

- Recognize and encourage affordable housing as an integral part of complete communities.
- Create affordable housing in all areas of the city.
- Create affordable housing located close to amenities such as parks, schools, transit, recreation facilities, and medical and commercial services.
- Develop affordable housing that is indistinguishable from market housing.
- Provide rental housing that is affordable to low and moderate income households.

## Affordable Housing in Calgary

The Affordable Housing division at The City of Calgary works to meet housing objectives and policies as approved by City Council.

To meet the ongoing need for affordable housing in Calgary, The City of Calgary's Foundations for Home Affordable Housing Strategy 2016-2025 includes the design and construction of new Affordable Housing units as a key priority, increasing the supply of homes to those in need.

Affordable housing sites are chosen based on specific criteria including proximity to amenities such as transit and grocery stores. Redevelopments are informed by research on tenant preferences, industry best practices and extensive consultation with community stakeholders and citizens to ensure the redevelopments are well-integrated into existing neighbourhoods.



## **Meet our tenants**



#### **Meet Tarek**

Tarek immigrated to Canada from Lebanon in 2011 with his wife and two children, seeking a life where he can "have some peace and raise my kids in a good way." Tarek is a former banker who is unable to work due to Multiple Sclerosis. By 2014, Tarek's family could no longer afford to pay rent for a furnished apartment. They faced the real possibility of having to move back to Lebanon.

Tarek's family applied for affordable housing through the Calgary Housing Corporation (CHC). The CHC was able to find the family a comfortable townhouse with recently upgraded windows. In the future, Tarek hopes to own a house with a yard where his kids can play.



### **Meet Lori**

Lori left a difficult relationship, along with her son and daughter. It wasn't easy. Lori and her children arrived at a Calgary shelter seeking help.

Lori applied for assistance with the Calgary Housing Company and received an offer of a place to live three months later. Today Lori works at a non-profit society, where she uses her experience to help other women leaving similar circumstances. She is also saving up for her forever home. Lori's kids are thriving, getting involved in community activities and making friends.

"The best thing about affordable housing is looking around in the morning with my coffee, and my kids aren't scared," says Lori.