



# **Importance of Design for Community Acceptance of Supportive Housing**

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# Purpose of Presentation



**Share tools and tips re: importance of design for community acceptance**



**Share examples where design has played an important role in community acceptance**

# About BC Housing

- Develops, manages and administers subsidized housing

- Licenses residential builders, administers owner builder authorizations, and carries out research and education



# What have been your experiences with community acceptance when developing supportive housing...



**Common questions that come up from neighbours and other community stakeholders?**

# Community Concerns

## Who Expressed Concerns

- Residential neighbours
- Renters
- Owners
- Nearby businesses
- Nearby schools
- Other community amenities nearby

## Concerns Expressed

- Safety issues
- Increased crime
- Decreased property values
- Increased loitering
- More noise

## How Concerns Were Expressed

- Public meetings
- Rezoning hearings
- Letters/meetings
  - Municipal staff
  - Politicians
  - Funders
  - Operators
- Media/social media
- CAC meetings

# Community Acceptance Toolkit



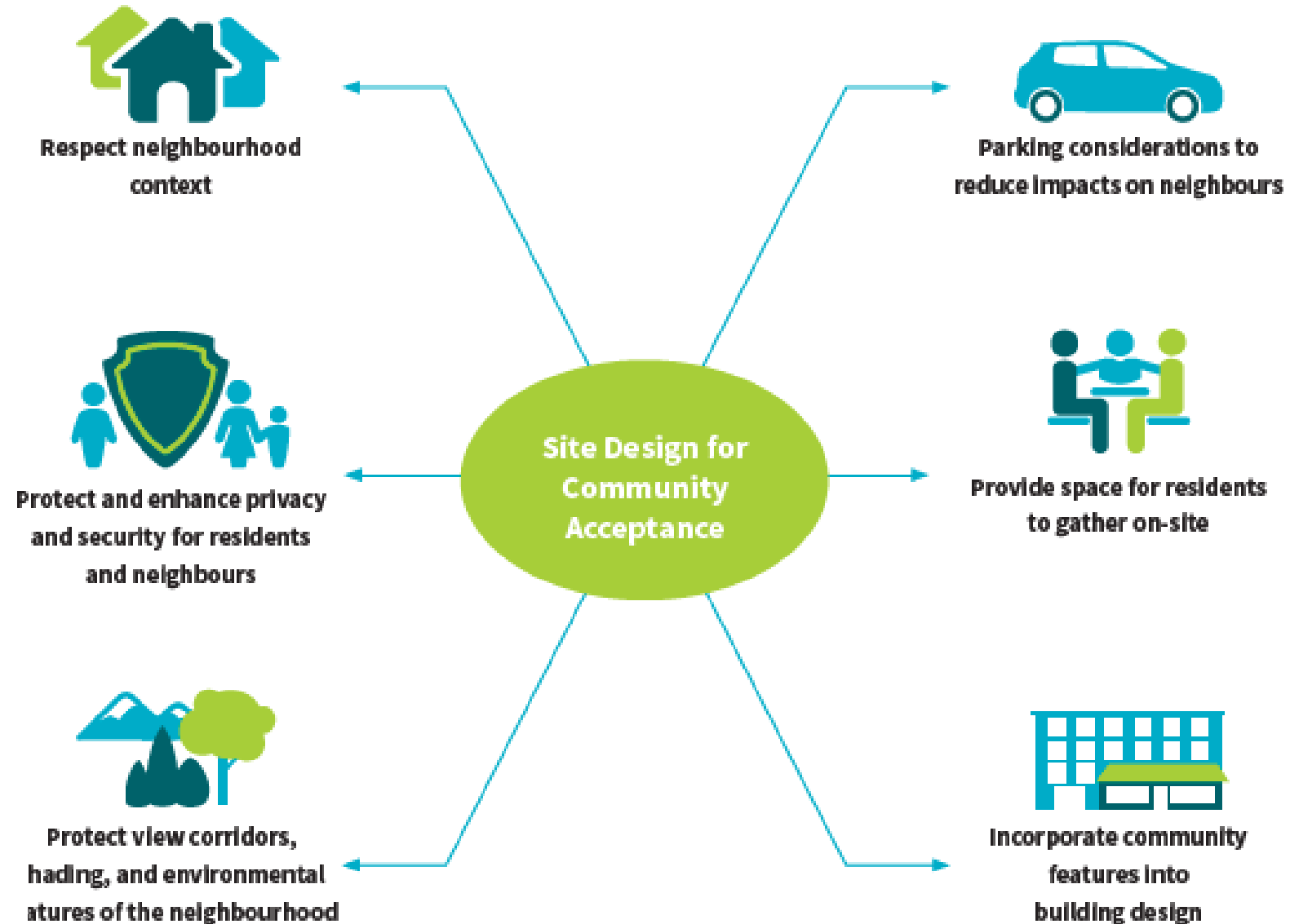
## Purpose

*The purpose of this guide is to help non-profit housing providers prevent and address common site selection and design concerns raised by communities related to non-market housing.*

## Guide 2 Design Considerations to Gain Community Acceptance

More inclusive neighbourhoods can be created in the long-term by ensuring quality design to optimize outcomes for both residents and neighbouring residents in non-market housing developments. Avoiding community and neighbourhood opposition can be accomplished through thoughtful site selection, before a design concept is prepared. Attention to design

# Community Acceptance Toolkit: Role of Design to Mitigate Concerns



# Community Acceptance Toolkit: Keep Neighbours Informed and Involved in Design





# Community Acceptance Toolkit: In Action



## Include Community Amenities On-Site



Design includes community amenities

Get neighbours' input on design

Keep neighbours informed during development



# Modular Design for Supportive Housing



Importance of design for acceptance of density

Inclusion of common spaces in design

Importance of exterior and landscaping for community acceptance



# Repurposing Modular Units for Supportive Housing



- Listen to neighbours
- Protect privacy of neighbours
- Materials that fit with neighbourhood



# Design for Safety



- Listen to neighbours
- Incorporate safety features to design



# Design for Inclusiveness



Listen to neighbours  
Incorporate gathering spaces  
to design



## Group Discussion

**In your experience, what are some other design features that can help supportive housing achieve community acceptance?**

# Tools for Community Acceptance of Supportive Housing



This resource answers questions about Supportive Housing in your neighbourhood



## What is supportive housing?

Provincially-funded supportive housing is for people experiencing homelessness. Supportive housing provides a home with access to on-site supports to ensure people can achieve and maintain housing stability. Residents have access to their own self-contained studio apartment or, in some cases, a secure unit with shared bathroom and amenity spaces. All residents sign either a program or tenancy agreement and participate in programming based on an individualized case plan.



2020: Canadian Planning Institute's Award for Planning Excellence for Planning Publications and Media



## Purpose

The purpose of this Toolkit is to help non-profit housing providers, local governments and other stakeholder groups gain community acceptance of non-market housing developments, including projects

## Community Acceptance of Non-Market Housing Toolkit

### Introduction

Since the release of the B.C. Government's *Towards More Inclusive Neighbourhoods* toolkit in 1995, much has changed in the delivery of subsidized and other non-market housing across British Columbia. Community groups and residents are organizing and exchanging information



2020: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Gold Roof Award for Knowledge to Action



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