

# **Social Housing Innovation Fund**

Presentation to  
**York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee**

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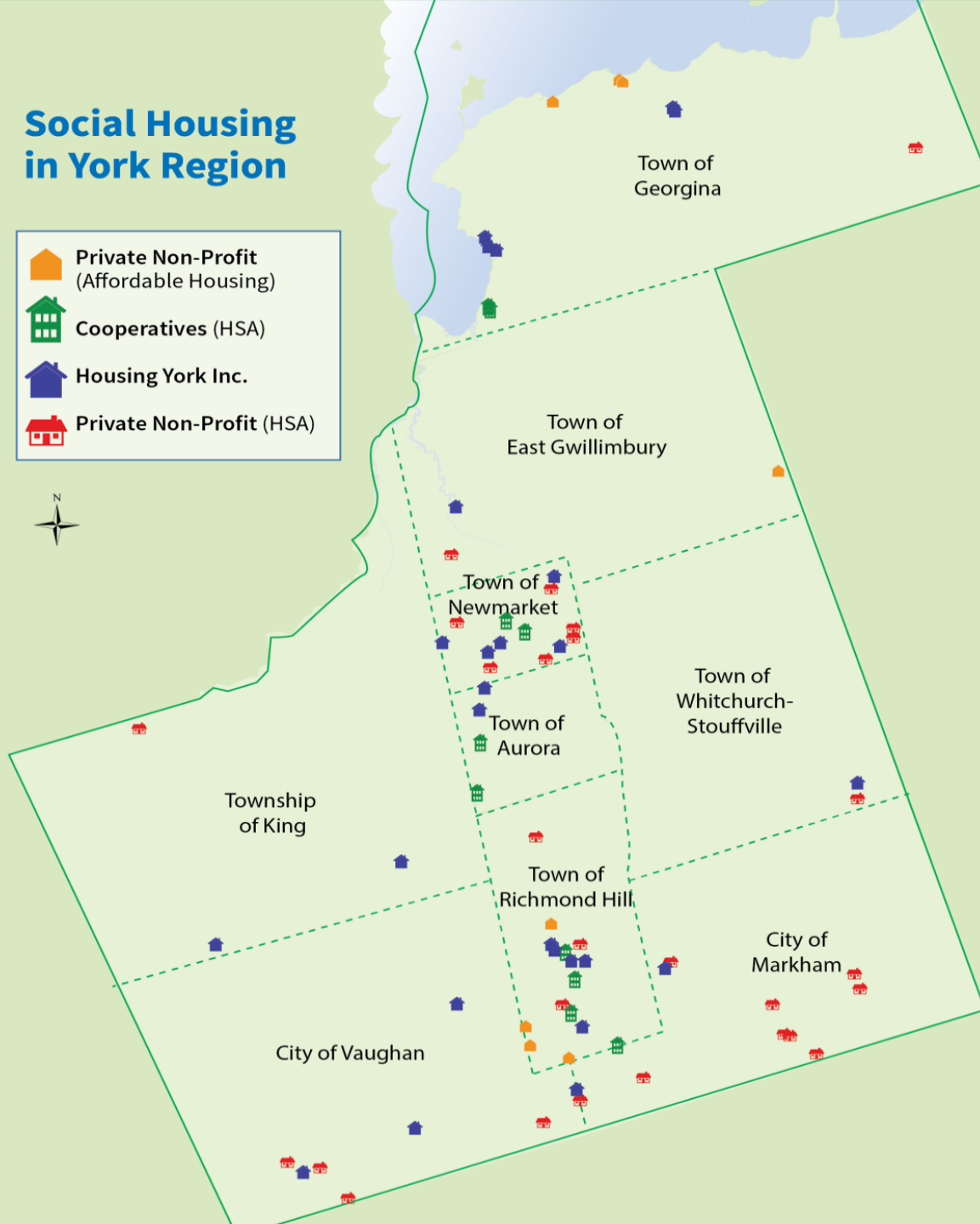
# Social Housing Innovation Fund

- ✓ Today's Purpose
- ✓ Social Housing & Our Role
- ✓ Program Overview
- ✓ Influencing Innovation with Accessibility

# Today's Purpose

How can we use an accessibility lens to fund innovative projects in social housing communities?

## Social Housing in York Region



# Over 50 Housing Providers in York Region

- 85 properties
- Located in all nine local municipalities
- Over 6,700 units
- Housing for seniors, families and singles

# The Role of the Housing Programs Unit

- Deliver housing programs and services
- Provide support to community housing providers
- Manage implementation of the *Housing Services Act*
- Build capacity with and among community housing providers
- Communicate policies and directives

# What is the Social Housing Innovation Fund?

- Approved by Council in 2007 to support playground replacements and accessibility retrofits
- Helps housing providers make enhancements and pay for projects they might otherwise not be able to afford
- Regionally funded (\$500,000 annual budget)

- **Accessibility**
- **Green Initiatives**
- **Recreation and Leisure Space**
- **Community Programs and Initiatives**
- **Innovation and Partnerships**



## Project Examples:

- Playground replacements
- Gazebos and community gardens
- Community technology workspaces
- Capacity building workshops
- LED retrofits
- Bath tub/shower combos and handrails
- Ramps and automatic door openers



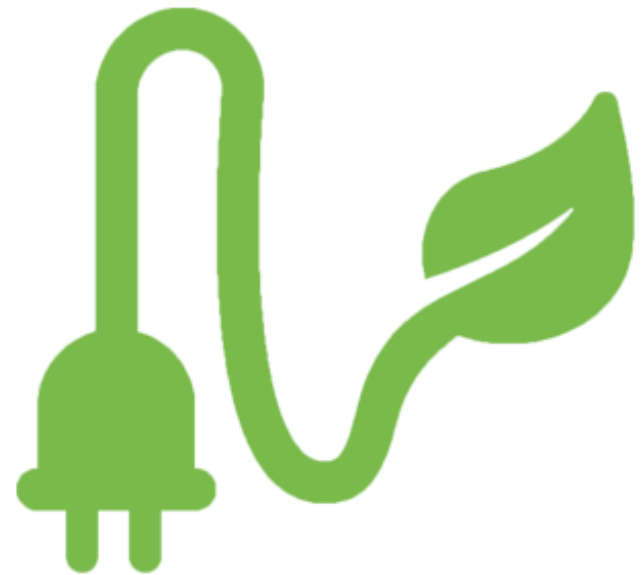
**Recreation and Leisure Space**



**Community Programs and Initiatives**



**Accessibility**



**Green Initiatives**



# Influencing Innovation: 2018 and 2019

**“Innovation by definition is a better solution that meets new requirements” – Bernice Landry**

- Encourage projects demonstrating partnerships and innovation
- Promote innovative accessibility projects (e.g. wayfinding, mental health training)



# Influencing Innovation

How can we use an accessibility lens to fund innovative projects?



# Next Steps

- Take the feedback from today and share it with our housing providers to help them take a broader lens on accessibility
- Desired outcome: housing providers implement innovative solutions to meet their clients' needs

Thank you

