

## WELCOME TO THE RIGHT FIT PILOT PROJECT



The Right Fit Pilot Project (RFPP) is a multi-partner effort to address challenges in matching affordable, wheelchair-accessible homes and independent living supports with those who need them.

**The issue:** People with disabilities who use wheelchairs typically wait years for affordable, accessible housing. Key challenges include:

- Limited availability of accessible, affordable housing.
- Length of time required to arrange for special equipment and supports at a new address.
- High demand for vacancies, which are often gone before supports can be arranged.
- No centralized inventory of accessible units or standards for listing accessibility features.

**The project:** The 3-year Metro Vancouver pilot will address barriers and test streamlined models to connect wheelchair users with affordable housing that meets their needs. The pilot will develop and test a case management model to help a rolling caseload of 20 wheelchair users find homes that fit their needs, along with personal supports needed to live independently. Project partners will work directly with applicants and with housing and service providers to learn more about systemic barriers. Using a ground-up, collaborative approach, the project will develop advice on how to streamline processes to better match housing needs and support services. The pilot will focus on applicants seeking homes in Metro Vancouver, with supports from the two Health Authorities serving the region, but lessons learned will be shared more broadly.

### A Partnership

RFPP is led by **Disability Alliance BC** in partnership with the Individualized Funding Resource Centre, BC Housing, City of Vancouver, Fraser Health Authority, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority & the Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction. The project is generously funded by **Vancouver Foundation & BC Rehab Foundation**.

**More:** [RightFitProject.org](http://RightFitProject.org)

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### Waiting for the right home

**Susan** was hospitalized due to complications of Multiple Sclerosis. During her long stay, she transitioned from a walker to a power wheelchair. She then transferred to a long-term care facility, where she shared a three-person room. Wanting to regain her independence, dignity and privacy, Susan spent two years searching for a suitable apartment. She eventually settled for a partially accessible unit where she can't access the bathroom. This is her tradeoff: to regain some control over her life, Susan had to forego bathing, showering and conventional toileting.

**Tom** lives with a spinal cord injury from a cycling accident. His condition has deteriorated and he needs more hours of home support. He also wants to move from his current apartment to be closer to a new job opportunity. The move will mean transferring to a different health authority and having his home support needs re-assessed. But the re-assessment may take up to 3 months. Tom is worried about moving and not having the supports he needs in a new apartment. But he also does not want to lose his employment opportunity.