



LAB TEAM #1: SHARED COMMUNITY MODEL

(RIFFING ON TINY HOME, CO-OP, OR COHOUSING MODELS)

Overarching Lab Problem Statement

What might an **affordable, accessible** housing and support model that also supports the **social inclusion** and **belonging** of people with developmental disabilities look like?

TEAM PROBLEM STATEMENT

How might we create a **shared community housing model** for people with and without disabilities that (1) incorporates both shared and private living spaces, (2) is affordable to someone living on AISH, (3) is accessible, and (4) supports social inclusion and belonging?

Shared community models where people with disabilities live together with other people without disabilities have shown promise in creating living spaces that are affordable, accessible, and inclusive. These models can take many forms but usually incorporate some combination of shared and private living spaces. We wonder if a series of tiny homes might be built together in a way that offers spaces where people can have their own privacy but also gather as a community and build relationships? There also may be possibilities for laneway/garage suite homes to be explored.

***Checkout the summary of existing innovative housing and support models beginning on page 38 of the primer for more on tiny homes, coop housing, cohousing, shared lives, and laneway/garage suites.**

VISION

What we hope you will have created in the end

There are **two parallel parts to design** with this challenge:

1. The physical space(s) that supports wellbeing, connection and are affordable
2. The way support will be offered in this setting that draws in natural neighbourly supports from community in tandem with required paid support through PDD.

Each team will create a 'roadmap' that outlines the:

- ▶ Physical structure/features of the individual units
- ▶ Physical structure/features of the shared spaces
- ▶ Support model in place to ensure people with developmental disabilities living there are safe and can lead rich, full, inclusive lives
 - ▷ The support model has built in a mix of paid and flexible support (PDD funded) and natural supports from people who live in the community and may not have disabilities

BIG HOPE TO CONSIDER WHEN PROTOTYPING

The big hope is that the prototypes could show a way to provide meaningful, inclusive home life for less than it would cost to support someone in a congregate care, less inclusive model. If that can be done, it will be more likely to be implemented by funders.

CHALLENGE OVERVIEW & CONTEXT

Historically, many people with developmental disabilities in Alberta were forced to live in institutions away from their family, friends, and the wider community. These were dark times for people with developmental disabilities, their families, and allies where people faced many violations of their human rights. People with developmental disabilities were not able to choose where they lived, with whom they lived, and how they lived their lives.

Today, thanks to the long advocacy, hard work and sacrifice of people with disabilities, their families, and allies, people with developmental disabilities are supported to live in community just like anyone else. Some people are supported to do so by their families whilst others access supports from agencies like Skills Society. Most people with developmental disabilities receive funding for support from the provincial Persons with Developmental Disabilities Program (PDD).

Although most people with developmental disabilities now live in community (outside of large institutions), they continue to face barriers to finding housing that meets their needs. As a result, people with disabilities are more likely to be in "core housing need" (Let's Talk Housing What We Heard Report, p. 22).

Three significant barriers this group faces in finding housing include:

1. COST

Many people with IDD face barriers to employment which means they more frequently rely on social assistance (e.g. Alberta Income for the Severely Handicapped) and therefore have a fixed income. People with IDD would benefit from having low cost or subsidized housing options more readily available.

- A. A maximum monthly AISH living allowance in Alberta is \$1685/month
- B. Check out p. 25 of the primer for more on affordability
- C. Checkout p. 48/49 of the primer for more on the Edmonton Housing Landscape and the Finance Landscape

2. ACCESSIBILITY

People with IDD often also have physical impairments which mean they require specific home features (e.g. wider doorways, no step entrances, roll in showers) that enable them to access all parts of their home and move about freely. Most standard homes are not built with these features and are therefore exclusionary to people with disabilities.

- A. There are multiple forms of accessibility to consider including physical accessibility, location accessibility, and social accessibility.
- B. Check out p. 21 of the primer for more on accessibility

3. BROADER COMMUNITY ATTITUDES AND ASSUMPTIONS CREATE BARRIERS TO RELATIONSHIP:

Considerable stigma surrounding what it means to have a developmental disability persists which often leads to 'not in my backyard' type statements from neighbors and creates barriers to the formation of positive relationships with neighbors and landlords.

- A. Check out p. 34 of the primer for more on social inclusion and belonging

KEY CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO WHO YOU ARE DESIGNING FOR/WITH

PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

- ▶ Often living on a limited income (i.e. AISH)
- ▶ May or may not have social supports (i.e. friends or family who provide unpaid support by doing things like helping with grocery shopping, errands, etc.)
- ▶ Sometimes have a physical disability as well and so use mobility aids such as a walker or wheelchair
- ▶ Sometimes require paid supports 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so need a space for their paid supports to use/stay with them (e.g. office space, spare bedroom for overnight sleep staff)

**Check out Karim's Persona on pages 32-33 of the primer for a narrative example of someone you are designing for*

PEOPLE WITHOUT DISABILITIES

- ▶ Can hold (unconscious) assumptions/beliefs about what it means to have a disability that might create barriers to forming deep and meaningful relationships with people with disabilities. How will your prototype approach/tackle this?
- ▶ Is there a particular demographic of people you will design for (e.g. seniors, students, young families)? Are there certain demographics that might be more or less interested in living in a shared community model?

CRITERIA TO CONSIDER WHEN PROTOTYPING

SUPPORTS SOCIAL INCLUSION

- ▶ How does your model support social inclusion and belonging?
- ▶ How will you incorporate both private and shared living spaces?
- ▶ How will you encourage people to connect and interact with one another, fostering relationships and a sense of community belonging (avoiding surface level, tokenistic interactions)?
- ▶ What might a memorandum of understanding or agreement look like that outlines expectations and how community members will support each other in reciprocal ways?
- ▶ What if people without disabilities receive reduced rent in exchange for 10? 15? 20? hours a week helping connect and support their neighbours with disabilities?

AFFORDABLE

- ▶ Is your model affordable to someone on AISH? How so?

ACCESSIBLE

- ▶ Is your model accessible for the segment of people the prototype is designed with?
- ▶ Have you considered physical, location, and social accessibility?

STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

- ▶ Does the prototype resonate and inspire those whom it's meant to support?
- ▶ What makes this community delightful and desirable for people without disabilities?
- ▶ Why/how are people without disabilities motivated to live in this community?
- ▶ What makes this community delightful and desirable for people with disabilities?
- ▶ Why/how are people with disabilities motivated to live in this community?
- ▶ How have people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and allies been involved in the development of your prototype?
- ▶ Does the support model 'work' within current PDD structures?

VIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE

- ▶ Have you considered strategies for ensuring the model is viable and sustainable in the current funding climate?
- ▶ Have you designed in how PDD support services funding would be used to support people in the model?

- ▶ Have you designed in how your support model prototype would bring in natural supports from neighbours and community to augment paid supports and support belonging?
- ▶ Where will this model be built? How will you avoid 'not in my backyard' type statements from neighbors?
- ▶ Have you considered what PDD and housing builders would need to see and hear in order to say, "Where do I sign? and I'm committed now to make this happen!?"

*See page 16-17 in the primer for more details on these design criteria