

Housing Team History



In February 2020, the Seniors Health Innovations Hub, then SWOOS, did a housing survey in central Ottawa, recognized that “next stage” housing was a preoccupation of many seniors and other residents. The results of the survey were [published](#) in the OSCAR; they confirmed that residents living here wanted to move to smaller and newer accommodation and to stay in the area. More than 77% said they would be interested in being part of a community in the building and sharing responsibility.

The SWOOS housing group pursued an [Abbeyfield](#) model of seniors housing – a non-profit, small group, community-based model. Our councillor linked the housing group with the developer of a proposed high rise on the south-west corner of Riverside and Bank. Concurrently the group incorporated as a federal not-for-profit under the name Abbeyfield Riverside (AR). Construction on that site was postponed and the AR board is now looking at other locations.

Imagine our excitement when we learned that the stars are aligning and that there is a very real possibility that housing could be provided in our community that not only meets the survey criteria, but could also be big enough to address other community needs like that of students and adults with disabilities. That possibility is reflected our vision of Village Canada on Confederation Heights federal land.