



# Housing Tip Sheet

## Searching for Market Rent Housing

**The Family Navigation Hub** aims to share information and resources with families related to social needs such as stable housing, food and income security, access to childcare and more. For more information contact: [familynavigation@hollandbloorview.ca](mailto:familynavigation@hollandbloorview.ca)

Please note: The information provided in this tip sheet is for reference only. It is not intended as a recommendation or endorsement of organizations, agencies or private businesses, or as a comprehensive resource list.

Here are some tips and tools to help you search for housing for you and your family.

### Popular Websites for Finding Apartments

- [www.kijiji.ca](http://www.kijiji.ca)
- [www.viewit.ca](http://www.viewit.ca)
- [www.rentals.ca](http://www.rentals.ca)
- [www.padmapper.com](http://www.padmapper.com)
- [www.walkscore.com](http://www.walkscore.com)
- Facebook Marketplace



When you use these search engines, you can filter your results by budget, location, and number of bedrooms in the unit.

### Avoiding Scams

When searching for housing, you may come across fake or fraudulent housing listings.

Common signs of a scam listing may include:

- No photos of the unit on the online rental listing
- The landlord is “out of town” but will mail you the keys once you give them a deposit
- It seems “too good to be true” (e.g. a huge and beautiful apartment for a very low price)
- The landlord doesn’t want to give you an exact address
- The landlord won’t let you see the unit in person

### **Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital**

150 Kilgour Road, Toronto ON Canada M4G 1R8 **T** 416 425 6220 **T** 800 363 2440 **F** 416 425 6591 [hollandbloorview.ca](http://hollandbloorview.ca)

A teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto.

- The landlord asks for your personal information (e.g. SIN card number, credit card number)

**Remember:** Always see the unit in person before agreeing to rent, and avoid giving the landlord any money until you have signed a lease.

## Using Kijiji

Here is an example of how to search for housing using [www.kijiji.ca](http://www.kijiji.ca).

- In the search bar, type what kind of housing you are looking for- for example, “2-bedroom apartment”.
- In the location spot, type your preferred location- for example, Toronto.

The screenshot shows the Kijiji website search interface. At the top left is the Kijiji logo. To the right are links for 'FR', 'Register or Sign In', and a 'Post ad' button. Below these is a search bar with three sections: '2 bedroom apartment', 'All categories' with a dropdown arrow, and 'City of Toronto, ...' with a location pin icon and a search icon. Below the search bar is a heading: 'Listings for "2 bedroom apartment" in Apartments, Condos & Houses For Rent in City of Toronto'. Underneath the heading is the text 'Showing 1 - 40 of 1187 results'. At the bottom of the filter section, there are three buttons: a green button with a plus sign and the text '+ Add Filters' (circled in red), a light green button with the text 'City of Toronto, Ont...', and a light green button with the text 'Long Term Rentals' and a close icon.

The screenshot shows the 'Accessibility' filter section in Kijiji. It has a title 'Accessibility' and an upward arrow. Below the title are three filter categories, each with three radio button options: 'No preference', 'Yes', and 'No'. The 'Yes' option is selected for all three categories. The categories are: 'Barrier-free Entrances and Ramps', 'Visual Aids', and 'Accessible Washrooms in Suite'. To the right of these filters is a text box that reads: 'While setting filters, you can also add accessibility accommodations. This allows you to see results with barrier-free entrances and ramps, visual aids, and accessible washrooms in your rental unit.'

- Sometimes ads will include a phone number or email to contact the landlord, but often you need to message the landlord through Kijiji. To do this, you need an account. Kijiji accounts are free- click “register” to begin, circled below in **RED**.



FR **Register** or Sign In

Post ad

2 bedroom apartment

All categories



City of Toronto, ...



## Using a Real Estate Agent

Using a real estate agent is **free** if you are looking to rent an apartment, as the landlord pays the rental agent commission. This can be a good strategy because the real estate agent can help you find a rental unit that meets your family’s accessibility needs and budget.

## Use a Housing Help Centre

Seeking support from a Housing Help Centre is another good way to find accessible housing, as staff can work with you to find a unit that meets your needs. Housing Help Centres are non-profit agencies that help people find and keep housing.

Visit this website to find different Housing Help Centre locations within Toronto and the GTA:

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/housing-shelter/homeless-help/#housing>

## Questions to Ask a Landlord

Even if you get support from a real estate agent or housing worker, there are some things you may want to ask the landlord directly. Below are some examples.

- Does the building have an elevator? How many elevators?
- How quickly does the elevator get repaired when it breaks?
- How big is the bathroom?
- Are door thresholds flat or raised?
- If doors have raised thresholds, are you able to add a ramp?
- Does noise transfer through walls easily?
- What modifications to the unit will the landlord allow?
- Is there parking?
- Does this building have accessible units?

## Modifying your Unit

March of Dimes Canada has a Home and Vehicle Modification Program that provides funding to renters to support the costs of assistive devices and equipment (e.g. lifting devices).

Visit the website for more information:

<https://www.marchofdimes.ca/en-ca/programs/am/hvmp/Pages/HVMP-How-to-Apply.aspx>

## Habitat for Humanity Affordable Home Ownership

An affordable home ownership program for those who qualify. Habitat for Humanity has affordable ownership programs all over Canada.

Visit the website for more information about home ownership in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA):

<https://habitatgta.ca/homeownership/homeownership-requirements/>



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