

Getting more involved

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If you want to get more involved in the planning for a local development project, contact your local community association at:

How Might This Development Affect People's Health?



A Checklist About Health, Well-Being and Development

**For Large
Housing
Developments**

Produced by the Social Planning Council of Ottawa for the
Centretown Community Health Centre

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Every One Matters. | Chaque personne compte.

Introduction

This checklist is for large housing developments. It is one of a series of checklists intended to help you think about how developments planned for your neighbourhood will affect your health or the health of your neighbours.

We hope you will use the checklist to ask questions about how the planned development will affect health. You can also use the checklist to start a conversation with friends or neighbours about health and development.

Using the Checklist

Review each health and well-being statement and evaluate the impact of the development using this scale:

For each question, choose one of the following scores:

- A** = The development will improve this issue
- B** = The development could be changed to improve this issue
- C** = The development will make this issue worse

This checklist is for large housing developments like a condominium or a group of semi-detached homes. The official zoning designations for these types of developments would be “Residential Third, Fourth and Fifth Density” (R3, R4, R5). Other checklists are available for other types of developments, such as small commercial developments.

Summary — Large Housing Development

What grade will you give for each section?

- A** = The development will improve this issue
- B** = The development could be changed to improve this issue
- C** = The development will make this issue worse

	Grade
Supporting Healthy Lifestyles	
Safety	
Improving the Local Environment	
Encouraging a Mix of People	

What are the most important steps that would improve the impact of this development on people’s health?

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What actions do you recommend?

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What things about this development will be good for people’s health?

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Summary Section

Record your final scores for each section, e.g. Supporting Healthy Lifestyles.

What are the four most important issues to improve this development's impact on people's health? You can also recommend specific actions to address the priorities.

Think about the issues you gave an "A". What are the most important things about this development which will be good for people's health?

1 Supporting Healthy Lifestyles

This section looks at how the planned development can support people to make healthy lifestyle choices.

Will the development add or improve a park or a playground? A B C

Will the development add or improve exercise space or a swimming pool? A B C

Will walking and cycling paths connect to public transportation? A B C

Will there be good lighting on walking and cycling paths? A B C

Will there be space for growing food outside, on the roof or on balconies? A B C

Will there be space for compost bins? A B C

2 Safety

This section looks at how the development increases safety and plans to reduce injuries.

Will there be no steep slopes on paths and sidewalks? A B C

Will people have a clear view of what is going on when they are outside and when they go in and out of the buildings? A B C

Will people on walking and cycling paths have to cross a parking lot or too many driveways? A B C

Will the development improve a property which was run down or unsafe? A B C

Will there be a space for shovelled snow to be piled safely? A B C

3 Improving the Local Environment

People's health can be harmed by the environment around them. This section looks at how the development will affect the air, land and water around the site, including pollution.

Will the development add or improve green spaces or natural areas in the neighbourhood? (A) (B) (C)

Will trees and other natural vegetation be kept or added? (A) (B) (C)

Will the materials used for landscaping, walkways and driveways absorb rainwater instead of letting it run into the sewer system? (A) (B) (C)

Will play areas and parks be away from roads? (A) (B) (C)

Will the development block the sunlight to nearby housing? (A) (B) (C)

If the development will have a rooftop air conditioner, will it be installed in a way that will limit noise? (A) (B) (C)

Will night lighting around the development shine into people's homes? (A) (B) (C)

Will the development have a place for recycling and garbage storage and pick up that will not interfere with neighbours? (A) (B) (C)

4 Encouraging a Mix of People and Ways for Neighbours to Connect

People's health is better overall if they feel welcome and a part of their neighbourhood. This section looks at how the development can help create a neighbourhood where everyone can feel welcome and neighbours can connect.

Will the development create affordable housing? (A) (B) (C)

Will the development increase the number of housing units for seniors? (A) (B) (C)

Will the development increase the number of housing units for families? (A) (B) (C)

Will the development provide space, such as a courtyard, where neighbours can connect with each other? (A) (B) (C)

If the development will increase the demand for parks, community centres, schools or stores, is there land set aside nearby for these services? (A) (B) (C)