



## ABOUT L'ARCHE CALGARY

At L'Arche Calgary, we are a community built with and for people with intellectual disabilities, where daily life is shared through relationships of respect, friendship, and belonging. Our family-style model of care nurtures the body, mind, and spirit, creating homes where people are supported to live with dignity and purpose. Through this shared life, we learn from one another, grow together, and form meaningful, life-giving relationships.

Founded in 1973, just nine years after the original L'Arche community began in France, L'Arche Calgary is part of a global network of 158 communities in 38 countries, including 29 across Canada. What makes L'Arche unique is our belief that people with intellectual disabilities are not clients or service users; they are teachers, companions, and valued members of community.

## OUR COMMUNITY TODAY

We currently operate five homes, where Core Members and Assistants live, learn, and build community. Our **Tamarack Day Program** offers opportunities for employment, personal growth, and creative expression. Our **Supported Independent Living Program (SILP)** enables individuals to live more independently while receiving the assistance they need to thrive, an area of significant and sustainable growth for our future.

Altogether, through our residential supports, day programs, SILP, and broader community initiatives, we regularly support approximately 100 individuals. While our homes support a specific number of Core Members, the reach of L'Arche extends far beyond those who live with us: we train future sector leaders, strengthen belonging, foster advocacy, and create inclusive spaces for the wider community.

## OUR REBUILD PROJECT – "Home is Where Everyone Belongs"

After decades of committed use, our homes are aging, increasingly inaccessible, and costly to maintain. Our three oldest homes are more than 60 years old and have seen no major improvements in over 20 years. All of our Core Members age in place, these are their forever homes, and many now face significant mobility and accessibility challenges. After extensive evaluation, rebuilding has proven to be the most responsible and cost-effective option.

### Our development plans will:

- Replace three aging homes with three purpose-built, efficient residences.
- Maximize space on existing lots while meeting full accessibility standards
- Include two one-bedroom suites in each home, creating affordable housing and expanding our SILP program
- Support aging-in-place for all Core Members through fully accessible bedroom and bathroom design
- Preserve neighbourhood continuity by rebuilding on our current centrally located, transit-accessible lots

This project is not simply about replacing buildings, it is about strengthening our long-term sustainability and expanding the ways we can serve more people responsibly.



## RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY

L'Arche Calgary supports individuals across all programs, with an average funding of approximately \$11,500 per person per month. Human care is inherently costly, but our relational, community-based model provides far more than basic care: it offers belonging, stability, advocacy, and lifelong relationships. We steward every dollar toward dignity and quality, a commitment reflected in our highest-level accreditation through the Alberta Council of Disability Services.

The Persons with Developmental Disabilities Program (PDD) is our primary funder, as it is for all disability service providers in Alberta, reflecting the essential nature of these services and decades of stable public investment. L'Arche Calgary further strengthens its resilience by diversifying revenue, maintaining strong and collaborative relationships with PDD, and owning all of our properties outright.



## ACCESS, EQUITY & GROWTH

L'Arche Calgary's model is rooted in inclusion, belonging, and person-centred support. As Calgary grows and the need for disability supports increases, we are expanding in thoughtful, sustainable ways.

Our rebuilt homes will provide fully accessible, stable housing for people aging in place, while also adding new one-bedroom suites that expand our Supported Independent Living Program (SILP). SILP is our fastest-growing area of service, supporting individuals who can live more independently with the right level of assistance. The rebuild will allow us to welcome more people immediately, with further growth planned over time.



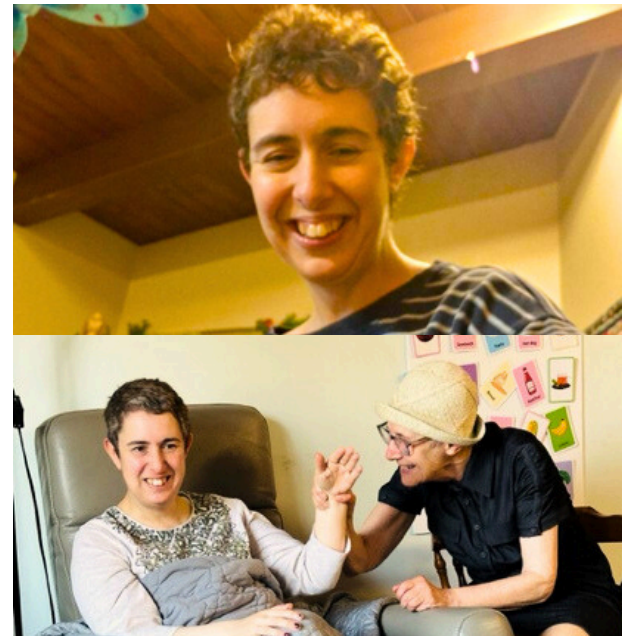
## SHULA'S STORY

Shula recently celebrated her 50th birthday at her home, L'Arche Calgary's Villa Maria. Her mother, Rachelle, reflects, “Shula stands out even in this community because she is profoundly autistic.”

Shula's father passed away when she was 30, prompting Rachelle to act. “I gave myself a year to find a safe haven for my daughter. The only name on my list was L'Arche, no second choice.”

Villa Maria became that haven. Now, nearly 20 years later, it's a place where Shula is truly known and respected. The Assistants at Villa Maria meet Shula with quiet patience, honouring her preferences, especially her fondness for her special chair. Now in her 70s, Rachelle remains closely involved and deeply grateful. “The greatest gift L'Arche has given Shula is the right to be as she is.”

This is the heart of what our rebuild ensures: lifelong homes where people are known, valued, and supported.



## LET'S BUILD BELONGING TOGETHER

Please help us build a more inclusive Calgary, one home at a time. L'Arche Calgary needs committed partners like you to help create homes where our members can age with dignity, safety, and belonging. Our plans are complete, our community is ready, and the need is urgent.

Join us in creating homes where everyone truly belongs—now and for generations to come.




Meet our community through our [L'Arche Calgary video](#)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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