

5 tips for choosing the right retirement home



1- Make a decision while you still can

“Let me give you one important piece of advice. Make the decision to live in a residence while you still can. The day you have to move due to a serious accident, for example, is a difficult day indeed. Plus, you may not have the opportunity to choose where you want to live”, declares Lina Ali, housing and home care advisor for seniors at Visavie.



2- Determine Your Needs

Not all retirement homes are the same, so start with a list of your needs. Will you need mobility aid? Do you want some of your meals prepared for you? Think about all the important things that would factor into helping you lead a fuller life without feeling like you have to make sacrifices.



3- Make a Budget

If it's centrally located, fancy and big, and there are a lot of amenities, then it will be more expensive. No surprise there. But keep in mind that, according to Lina Ali, most people can afford to live in a residence. To give you an idea, the average monthly rent in Quebec is 1 844¹\$ and 3 865\$ in Ontario.



4- Are you eligible for tax credits, pensions or the income supplement?

Depending on your province, don't forget that you may be eligible for tax credits that could help you save hundreds of dollars per month. Federally, you could also be eligible for pension income, an age tax credit, old age pension, and the guaranteed income supplement. Of course, it all depends on your needs and your other sources of income. Your advisor can help you with all these matters.



5- Visit the residence you're interested in

Once you're there, take the time to visit the common areas and the activity centres, like the library and the gym. How do you feel there? Is it comfortable? Do you feel safe? What about the neighbourhood? Does it offer local businesses and stores that meet your needs? Parks? Public transportation to get you around? Hospitals? It is all these elements that will make end up making your stay at a retirement home the next great period of your life.

¹Source: CHMC