

The topic of our January Legislation Committee meeting is:

**Creating Sustainable, Inclusive, Healthy Urban Communities with Housing for All**

Our speaker will be Michelle German, MES, Senior Manager, Policy and Partnerships, at Evergreen where she leads the organization's public policy work in housing, transportation and infrastructure. She works collaboratively with multi sectoral stakeholders in these program areas to deliver research and projects aimed at advancing public policy agendas that support better and more affordable housing, building complete communities and continued investment in transportation infrastructure. Prior to this role at Evergreen, Michelle worked Municipally and Federally as a political advisor as well as for Toronto Public Health for the Food Strategy team. She holds a Masters in Environmental Policy from York University.

More specifically, our session will focus on Michelle's responsibility at Evergreen for housing. Evergreen is a non-partisan NGO that works with diverse partners such as the Canadian Home Builders Association, ministries of the Ontario Government and municipal leaders in planning for and creating greener and more sustainable urban communities. Michelle represents Evergreen at the Ontario Housing Forum, a forum of experts that focuses on affordable housing strategies, and plays the role of an honest broker to build consensus between industry and public-sector interests.

At this time of rapid policy change in housing strategies and urgent housing needs, Michelle will highlight ways that we can mobilize and influence policy from outside of government. She flags housing as a key election issue. The session will include a brief presentation followed by an interactive workshop. This will be an opportunity to learn more about this important issue and how to advocate effectively in our communities.