

# **SUPPORTING ALTERNATIVE HOUSING MODELS IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The term “alternative housing model” encompasses a wide variety of development, ownership, management and governance structures. This study focuses on five specific examples: non-profit cooperatives, limited equity cooperatives, full equity cooperatives, co-housing, and community land trusts. Using a qualitative approach, this study examined the relationship between municipal housing policy and alternative housing projects in order to identify municipal policy and planning approaches that effectively support alternative housing development. The findings highlight that alternative housing models provide important financial, social and environmental benefits to residents and the broader community. However, low awareness about these models, a lack of coordination among stakeholders, the financialization of housing, and a cultural preference towards traditional home ownership contribute to challenges in their development. Education about the unique challenges faced by these models, a collaborative development approach, and tailored regulations/programs are recommended for municipalities like Edmonton that may be interested in supporting alternative housing models.

Key words: housing; housing model; alternative housing; cooperative; cohousing; community land trust; affordable housing.