

# Housing in Transition: The housing choices of Canadian young adults

---

**M Severson**<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta, AB, Canada*

The transition to adulthood generally includes the demographic milestone of moving out of the parental home. However, very little research integrates housing and the transition to adulthood. Previous research has highlighted an increasing proportion of Canadian young adults choosing homeownership since 2001, particularly ownership of single detached dwellings, despite increasing house prices during this same time. In this qualitative study, I explore the norms around housing for young adults as perceived by young adults themselves. Using a life course perspective that transitions and trajectories are interdependent, I integrate housing and the transition to adulthood in Canada based on three focus groups in Edmonton, Alberta in February 2017, with a total of 26 participants. How do young adults perceive homeownership in the context of rising home prices? How do they value different dwelling types and housing tenures? How do they understand the connection between housing and adulthood? This study contributes to research around the life course, housing, and the transition to adulthood in Canada, as well as providing more context for policy-makers as they continue to respond to the housing crisis.

Corresponding author: [meryn@ualberta.ca](mailto:meryn@ualberta.ca)