



January 21, 2026

This letter will confirm that the property located at 241 St. Clarens Avenue in Toronto qualifies for a laneway house build in the rear portion of the lot, under Toronto's "Changing Lanes" program.

I visited the property on January 20, 2026 and confirmed zoning, siting, emergency access and other appropriate qualifications to certify its eligibility.

The maximum size of a permitted as of right build appears to be approximately 1,377 square feet (over two floors - main and upper), with the ability to include an optional car garage on the main floor, with vehicle entry off the laneway.

A basement is also possible here, adding to the square footage above, but in most cases the floor plate of the basement will be significantly smaller than the ground floor and upper floors, the space cannot usually contain bedrooms or a bathroom or a kitchen, and the cost of basement construction can be significant.



Single-vehicle laneway house from Toronto's Eva Lanes - www.evalanes.com

A large, mature and protected tree in the rear yard here might present some challenges to a large laneway house build, but it is also conceivable that a proponent might successfully apply to have this tree eliminated, or at least branches removed that would conflict with a large 2-storey build here.

The relatively new (2018) Changing Lanes program from the City of Toronto allows qualifying property owners to construct a laneway house “as of right” on their property, with simple building permit application and no political approval or committee of adjustment approval required. No variances are required and no appeals or “neighbour vetoes” are permitted. The city also waives development cost charges.

Should you have any questions about 241 St. Clarens Avenue in particular, or the Changing Lanes program in general, please feel free to contact me any time, or visit our website.

Martin Steele

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