

Sean Gadon, Director
Affordable Housing Office

7th Floor
Tel: 416-338-1143
Fax : 416-392-4219
E-mail: sgadon@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca/affordablehousing

Phil Brown, General Manager
Shelter, Support & Housing Administration

6th Floor
Tel: 416-392-7885
Fax: 416-392-0548
Email: pbrown1@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca/housing

May 5, 2010

Re: Implementation Update – Housing Opportunities Toronto Action Plan 2010 - 2020

Dear Friend,

We are writing to provide an update on the City of Toronto's progress in implementing *Housing Opportunities Toronto – An Affordable Housing Action Plan 2010-2020*.

As you participated in the consultations which led to City Council adopting *Housing Opportunities Toronto*, we want to report to you on the City's efforts to create affordable housing opportunities and meet the housing needs of Torontonians.

As you may know, *Housing Opportunities Toronto* contains 67 actions directed to the City of Toronto and its federal and provincial partners. We are working to implement the range of housing actions identified in the eight strategic themes identified in the plan. We are also enlisting the support of non-profit, charitable and private sector organizations.

We are pleased to provide highlights of what has been accomplished to date:

- Council adopted the Toronto Housing Charter and the *Housing Opportunities Toronto Action Plan* in August, 2009.
- Created and distributed *Good Homes-Good Neighbours – The Councillor's Guide to Affordable Housing* in November, 2009.
- Launched a public education campaign in March 2010 in partnership with the Ontario Human Rights Commission including some 120 posters displayed in bus shelters.
- Initiated construction of 1,240 new affordable rental homes through the Affordable Housing Program Economic Stimulus Initiative, representing over \$145 million in federal/provincial investment in Toronto.

- Allocated \$220 million through the Social Housing Repair and Retrofit Program, in partnership with the provincial and federal governments, to TCHC and other non-profit and co-operative housing providers to make needed building repairs and energy retrofits.
- Council approved a report in November 2009 giving authority to negotiate a public interest partnership for redevelopment of the Seaton House shelter and revitalization of the George Street neighbourhood.
- Released the results of the 2009 Street Needs Assessment, which provides further evidence to support the implementation of the Housing First approach to end homelessness.

These are just some highlights of the various actions being undertaken to implement Toronto's housing action plan. In the weeks and months ahead, we will continue working with stakeholders and engaging the federal and provincial governments to take positive action on housing. Ongoing *Housing Opportunities Toronto* updates can be found at www.toronto.ca/housingportal.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank those individuals and organizations in Toronto who have most recently participated in the consultations around a provincial Long-Term Housing Strategy. Like you, we eagerly await the release of the strategy later this spring.

Looking ahead, we encourage you to continue to play an important role in your community to assist in the implementation of *Housing Opportunities Toronto*. We invite your ongoing participation in all of the efforts to make Toronto a place where all residents, regardless of circumstance, have access to the safety, security and dignity of an affordable home.

Thank you for your contribution to *Housing Opportunities Toronto* and your support in creating housing opportunities for everyone in Toronto.

Sincerely,



Sean Gadon
Director
Affordable Housing Office



Phil Brown
General Manager
Shelter, Support and Housing
Administration