

November 7, 2007

HOT release launches affordable housing consultations

The City of Toronto today released *Housing Opportunities Toronto, An Affordable Housing Framework 2008-2018*, a consultation document which moves the City one step closer to a comprehensive plan to create and maintain affordable housing.

“Our City’s continued success as a healthy, safe and productive place to live depends on providing housing opportunities for all,” said Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, chair of the Affordable Housing Committee. “This plan is a blueprint to maintain and create affordable housing over the next 10 years.”

Housing Opportunities Toronto (HOT) is based on the principle that affordable housing is a powerful positive contributor to the City’s economy, its environmental efforts and to the health of its neighbourhoods and residents. It lays out the challenges Toronto faces if it is to continue creating and maintaining affordable housing. These include reversing the provincial downloading burden and the need for the federal government to enact a national housing strategy and provide sustained funding.

HOT sets out 71 proposed actions by the City, the provincial and federal governments, as well as the private and non-profit sectors. It calls for new investments of \$469 million annually for the next decade.

The goal is to assist some 200,000 Toronto households between 2008 and 2018. They include individuals, key workers, families, single parents, young people, newcomers, Aboriginal people, low-income earners, mental health consumers and disabled persons. They are living in sub-standard or overcrowded housing, are paying more than 30 per cent of income for housing or are in danger of losing their homes.

HOT, along with further research and the results of upcoming consultations will be blended into a bold and comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan to be reviewed by City Council in 2008. Details on consultations will be available at toronto.ca/affordablehousing. Comments on *HOT* can be submitted to a dedicated e-mail address, HOT@toronto.ca.

Toronto is Canada’s largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. In the past three years Toronto has won more than 50 awards for quality and innovation in delivering public services. Toronto’s government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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