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Toronto's Housing Advocate and Chair's Update



COUNCILLOR ANA BAILÃO
TORONTO'S HOUSING ADVOCATE AND CHAIR
AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 26, 2015

1. Open Door Announcement

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- Second city-surplus site for affordable housing
- Block 36 Toronto Community Housing site
- Activated for construction of about 80 new permanently affordable homes
- RFP in early 2016 to private and non-profit organizations



2. Open Door Program

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1. Land

- a) Provide city-surplus sites for affordable housing
- b) Update the Memorandum of Understanding with Build Toronto to make land and funding available for affordable housing

2. Planning

- a) Extend the City's "Gold Star" planning approval process for affordable housing developments
- b) Prioritize affordable housing through Section 37

2. Open Door Program

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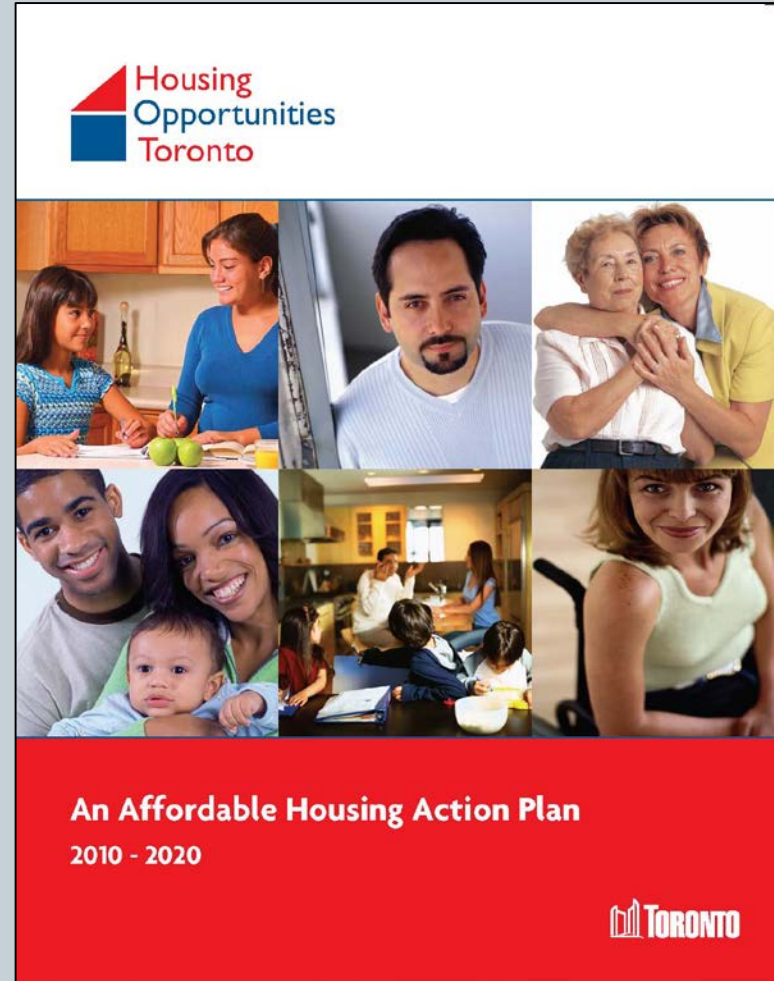
3. Financial Incentives

- a) Extend current policy on exemption from building and planning permit fees for purpose-built affordable rental housing by the private sector
- b) Take steps to improve the City's Home Ownership Assistance Program to create 200 affordable/assisted ownership homes annually
- c) Target of 500 housing allowances in new affordable rental buildings developed under the Open Door Program

3. Housing Opportunities Toronto Review

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- Housing Opportunities Toronto (HOT) is the city's 10 year plan on affordable housing, 2010-2020
- HOT guides the city's investments and priorities in housing
- 5 year review and update underway
- Public is engaged via public consultations, email and mail submissions



3. Housing Opportunities Toronto Review

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FOUR PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

1. Scarborough – Monday November 16 - completed
2. North York – Thursday November 19 - completed
3. Toronto – Tuesday November 24, completed
4. Etobicoke – Thursday December 3, Fairfield Seniors Centre, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

For more information visit:
www.toronto.ca/affordablehousing



4. Partnerships - National Housing Week Events

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1. Habitat for Humanity Build Day – November 16
2. Evergreen CityWorks Photo Exhibit and Reception with Stakeholders – November 17 and 18
3. Canada 2020 Discussion on Housing & Infrastructure – November 19
4. GTA Housing Lab Breakfast Panel on the role of the private sector in affordable housing – November 20

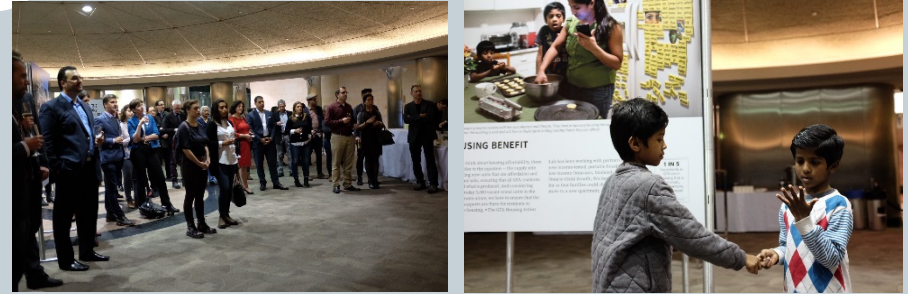


Exhibit and Reception, Photos by Nick Kozak



5. Close the Housing Gap Campaign



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- 1. Partnership between City of Toronto and Toronto Community Housing in 2- year campaign to re-engage the federal and provincial governments on issue of funding for social and affordable housing in Toronto and across the country**
- 2. Engagement of more than 1,000 organizations and individuals through advocacy events and actions**
- 3. Moving forward new federal and provincial governments present opportunities for continued action and partnerships**

6. Federal Election Activities

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1. Big City Mayors Caucus

- Meeting between the Mayors of Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver, Halifax, London & Kitchener in Toronto on affordable housing
- Press conference urging Federal action on housing

2. Stand Up For Public Housing

- Endorsed and liaised with the Stand Up for Public Housing Campaign

3. City Council Urged Federal Candidates to Commit to Action on Closing the Housing Gap



7. Campaign Candidate Questionnaire



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1. Campaign questionnaire to the candidates of the four major political parties seeking election in Toronto's 25 federal ridings
2. Questions to the candidates requesting:
 - support for funding for capital repairs to TCH
 - reinvesting of funds from expiring operating agreements
 - support for fully-funded, long-term national housing strategy
3. 54% response rate including 20 individual candidates in 14 different ridings replied: 10 Liberals, six Greens, four New Democrats and no Conservatives. The NDP and Liberals submitted responses on behalf of their parties as well.

8. Highlights of the Questionnaire Response from the Liberal Party

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1. **\$6 billion in infrastructure for affordable housing and seniors facilities over 4 years (\$19.7 billion over 10 years in total) including building and refurbishing more units, renewing co-operative agreements and providing operational support for municipalities**
2. **Renewed support for Housing First initiatives**
3. **Support and investment in a national housing strategy**
4. **Eliminate GST on new capital investments in affordable rental housing**
5. **Provide inventory of federal lands and buildings that could be repurposed and make some available at low cost for affordable housing**

9. What's Up for 2016 in Housing

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- 1. Open Door Program report to Council in June on further implementation**
- 2. Housing Opportunities Toronto Review report to Council in June**
- 3. Ongoing intergovernmental advocacy with federal, provincial governments and other stakeholders on social and affordable housing**
- 4. Mayors Task Force on Toronto Community Housing implementation**

9. What's Up for 2016 in Housing(continued)

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5. Rooming House Review Report
6. Toronto Renovates Homeowner and Rooming House Repair Program implementation
7. Housing Access Initiatives implementation
8. Real Estate Review Report on City-owned real estate operations
9. Planning Reports: Definition of Affordable Housing Ownership, Development Permit System, and others.