

City of Toronto – Executive Committee  
Wednesday, January 24, 2018

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DEPUTANT: Catherine Wilkinson, TCH Tenant, Sitting Tenant Director

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## **Executive Committee – Item EX30.2**

*Implementing Tenants First: TCHC Scattered Portfolio Plan and;  
An Interim Selection Process for Tenant Directors on the TCHC Board*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and making this the second item on your agenda today.

I am in full support of the recommendations before you.

I would like to commend The Tenants First Team and its partners for such a well thought out and thorough review, considering the financial risks and benefits, the state of our properties, and ensuring the inclusion of tenants who live within them every step of the way.

Identifying criteria:

- Non-profit organizations with expertise in providing vulnerable tenants with the supports they need
- that are qualified to engage with tenants, improve the condition of the properties, ensure tenant satisfaction and retaining these properties as affordable housing in perpetuity
- Ensuring a tenant voice in the governance of TCHC

As the longest standing Tenant Director having been re-elected by Tenants 3 consecutive terms, I am humbled and eternally grateful to the tenants for their unwavering support.

It has been a privilege and an honour to serve and work alongside distinguished citizen members and city councillors.

The original Shareholder Direction provided for tenant consultation in developing the Tenant Director selection process. Although not spelled out as such in the revised 2013 Shareholder Direction, tenants have not been consulted on the process since 2007.

The staff determined process created challenges for Candidates and Voters:

- corrupt electronic application form automatically changed responses, potentially disqualifying candidates
- requiring applicants to show proof of rent paid
- staff vetting and removal of applicants
- incomplete candidate profiles provided to voters
- mass mailing a postcard with a photograph promoting one of the candidates currently running
- Polling stations changed daily
- voters were required to travel to their OU office, at their expense in inclement weather to cast a ballot (*resulting in an undue hardship for seniors and tenants with disabilities and low voter turnout ie; 350 reps/154 voted*).

For these reasons, I believe the interim proposal of having Tenant applications consistent with the Public Appointments Policy will allow for transparency and fairness to all applicants.

Given some of the issues identified, I would ask the Executive Committee to consider a friendly amendment to Point 5, a.

*“TCH and City Staff work on the preparation of promotional materials”.*

110,000 tenants deserve to have the very best tenant representatives on a Board that makes decisions affecting their lives.

Thank you for truly putting Tenants First.