Deputation for EX34.3, 'Implementing Tenants First - Creating a Seniors Housing Unit at Toronto Community Housing Corporation and Transitioning Towards a Seniors Housing and Services Entity at the City', May 14, 2018

From: S.I.T. (Save Improved T.C.H.C. (Toronto Community Housing Corporation)

FACTS:

In the current funding model, the City provides more money (approx. 69% on average) to a Non Profit & Co-ops subsidized unit compared to a TCHC one. *
 After almost three years the City of Toronto has not been transparent on how much the 'Tenants First' proposals are going to cost.

3. Splitting off the senior portfolio of 5000 units would lose our economies of scale, ultimately making T.C.H.C. financially weaker. Weaker would result in more private management of buildings, & in hiring/ maintaining less support staff to help with our vulnerable tenants. Amalgamation in 2001 resolved that problem.

In response, S.I.T. SOLUTIONS for TCHC:

1. Permanent Funding Model Now, Not after the October 2018 Municipal Election. The recent infusion of funds to TCHC is a one time benefit. Give TCHC the equitable funding compared to Non Profits & Co-ops now, not when governments can change. This will help all tenants within TCHC, that includes seniors in mixed housing communities.

2. T.C.H.C. keeps the senior portfolio permanently, adding any relevant outside agencies to help. This will therefore protect our economies of scale, & all the accountability mechanisms in place for our tenants (i.e. Mandated Mayor's Task Force Tenant Charter, P.B. (Participatory Budgeting), Tenant Directorates).
3. TCHC should have direct oversight of any new senior agencies, providing accountability to tenants.

4. As the largest stakeholders within TCHC, we request a Referendum Vote by all tenants on all City of Toronto Tenants First proposals.

SUMMARY:

TCHC Stability: All these constant cuts, & changes only diminishes the efficacy of T.C.H.C., & prevents us for hiring, & maintaining good staff who wonder about their long term career, working here. This is critical for our vulnerable tenants, who consistently see frequent turnovers of staff.

Instead of spending, & losing money breaking it up, T.C.H.C. can use it towards infrastructure Capital repair, & improving support services for all our tenants. This is our home, grown communities, where we want to build on its strengths, tenant/staff collaboration, & not tear it down.

*2016 Operating Budget, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration: 2016 Service Levels, Social Housing System Management, City of Toronto

Marcel Pereira, founder,

S.I.T. (SAVE IMPROVED TCHC)