

December 9, 2019

Ms. Nancy Martins  
Committee Secretariat, City Hall  
100 Queen St. W., 10th floor, West Tower  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: PH 11.5 - HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan**

Dear Ms. Martins:

On behalf of our members, the Toronto Region Board of Trade (“the Board”) is a strong advocate for increasing the supply of housing in the City of Toronto, particularly affordable and accessible housing. Without a strong supply of affordable housing, we will not be able to attract and retain the talent needed to maintain our edge as a globally competitive city-region.

With this framework in mind, the Board was pleased to serve on the External Advisory Committee and commends the City on the development of the Housing TO 2020-2030 Action Plan. The Board strongly encourages both the committee and council to approve and begin implementing this plan.

In particular, the Board is supportive of construction of 40,000 new affordable rental homes, both through the Housing Now Initiative, and an extended Open Door program. The proposed land bank initiative is an innovative approach to consolidate sites for housing development, enabling multiple partners to grow the development pipeline for affordable rental housing. Reporting on the land bank’s progress will be key to ensure that all partners are contributing based on the resources at their disposal.

The Board is also pleased to be identified as a partner to share housing data and collaborate on housing issues (Action Plan, recommendation #70.e). Housing is a regional challenge and will require a regional solution. The Board’s Economic Blueprint Institute is building an evidence base to guide infrastructure investments and priorities, including assessing whether current and planned housing supply meets our needs. We look forward to beginning more formal collaboration in the very near future.

Housing is a critical priority for the city’s economic and social well-being. Resources are needed to deliver on this priority. The Board applauds Mayor Tory’s proposal to fund these critical investments through responsible increases to City Building Fund transfers. This necessary step will enable the City to invest in housing and nearby transit infrastructure alongside provincial and federal partners.

Sincerely,



Brian F. Kelcey  
VP Policy & Public Affairs  
Toronto Region Board of Trade