



May 28, 2020

*Sent via email - councilmeeting@toronto.ca*

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

We are writing to support the recommendations and action plan contained in the staff report for Item CC21.3 – *Creating New Affordable Housing Opportunities through the Housing Now Initiative* - before you today.

The Toronto Shelter Network is the umbrella organization representing more than 70 emergency shelters, respites and 24-hour drop-ins. We believe that housing is a human right and envision a city where everyone has a *safe and affordable* place to live. As such, we support initiatives that build Toronto's capacity to provide housing for all of its residents, particularly those who are in need of deeply affordable housing. We commend City Council for approving the 250 new modular housing units at last month's meeting for example. This is a great start towards achieving the vision enshrined in Toronto's Housing Charter of a city where homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

The additional sites as recommended in this report for the Housing Now Initiative, along with improved opportunities for non-profit development, is another step forward and deserves Council's full support. In particular we support a stronger commitment to maximizing deeply affordable and supportive housing in Phase 2, including greater consideration of submissions that increase supportive housing opportunities and improved access for non-profit, mission-driven housing.

It is critical these recommendations move forward in a timely manner as we plan for the recovery and rebuilding stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Phase 2 of Housing Now is part of our collective recovery process and will increase Toronto's ability to prevent and end homelessness for more people. The TSN looks forward to working with our partners at the City of Toronto and in the community to advance our shared vision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sonja Nerad".

Sonja Nerad

Executive Lead

Toronto Shelter Network

cc: Patricia Mueller, President, Toronto Shelter Network