



December 7, 2020

Sent via email: [phc@toronto.ca](mailto:phc@toronto.ca)

Planning and Housing Committee  
City of Toronto,  
10<sup>th</sup> floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen St. West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Committee members,

**Re: RentSafeTO (Apartment Building Standards): Colour-coded Rating System, By-law Amendments, and Program Updates (PH 19.6)**

I am writing on behalf of the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) to inform you of our support for the proposed Apartment Building Rating System to be considered by the Committee at its December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. ACTO is a community legal clinic funded by Legal Aid Ontario to provide legal services to low-income tenants across Ontario on the systemic issues that affect their ability to provide and maintain decent homes for themselves and their families. We urge the committee to adopt these recommendations to ensure the provision of safe, well-maintained housing for all tenants in the city.

ACTO supports the proposal to create a rating system that displays the building's most recent evaluation score, provides information on the next evaluation or audit, and explains how to submit a service request to the City. We have been involved in the discussion around RentSafeTO since the initial discussions around a landlord licensing regime. Rigorous enforcement of the RentSafeTO requirements is key to its success. Having more visible access to evaluation results will promote accountability and transparency, and improve tenants' awareness of RentSafeTO and landlord obligations under the program. This will contribute to the city's efforts to improve compliance.

We urge this Committee to adopt the recommendations included in the staff report to strengthen the RentSafeTO program and ensure improved health and safety for tenant households across the city.

Yours very truly,

**Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario**

per:

Kenneth Hale,  
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services