

City of Toronto Official Plan Housing Policies
Approved by the OMB on April 3, 2007

3.2.1 Housing

1. A full range of housing, in terms of form, tenure and affordability, across the City and within neighbourhoods, will be provided and maintained to meet the current and future needs of residents. A full range of housing includes: ownership and rental housing, affordable and mid-range rental and ownership housing, social housing, shared and/or congregate-living housing arrangements, supportive housing, emergency and transitional housing for homeless people and at-risk groups, housing that meets the needs of people with physical disabilities and housing that makes more efficient use of the existing housing stock.
2. The existing stock of housing will be maintained and replenished. New housing supply will be encouraged through intensification and infill that is consistent with this Plan.
3. Investment in new rental housing, particularly affordable rental housing, will be encouraged by a co-ordinated effort from all levels of government through implementation of a range of strategies, including effective taxation, regulatory, administrative policies and incentives.
4. Where appropriate, assistance will be provided to encourage the production of affordable housing either by the City itself or in combination with senior government programs and initiatives, or by senior governments alone. Municipal assistance may include:
 - a) in the case of affordable rental housing and in order to achieve a range of affordability, measures such as: loans and grants, land at or below market rates, fees and property tax exemptions, rent supplement and other appropriate assistance; and
 - b) in the case of affordable ownership housing provided on a long term basis by non-profit groups, especially affordable low rise family housing, measures such as: land at or below market rate, fees exemption and other appropriate forms of assistance; and
 - c) with priority given to non-profit and non-profit cooperative housing providers.
5. Significant new development on sites containing six or more rental units, where existing rental units will be kept in the new development:
 - a) will secure as rental housing, the existing rental housing units which have affordable rents and mid-range rents; and

- b) may secure any needed improvements and renovations to the existing rental housing, in accordance with and subject to Section 5.1.1 of this Plan, without pass-through of such costs in the rents to tenants.
6. New development that would have the effect of removing all or a part of a private building or related group of buildings, and would result in the loss of six or more rental housing units will not be approved unless:
- a) all of the rental housing units have rents that exceed mid-range rents at the time of application, or
 - b) in cases where planning approvals other than site plan are sought, the following are secured:
 - i) at least the same number, size and type of rental housing units are replaced and maintained with rents similar to those in effect at the time the redevelopment application is made;
 - ii) for a period of at least 10 years, rents for replacement units will be the rent at first occupancy increased annually by not more than the Provincial Rent Increase Guideline or a similar guideline as Council may approve from time to time; and
 - iii) an acceptable tenant relocation and assistance plan addressing the right to return to occupy one of the replacement units at similar rents, the provision of alternative accommodation at similar rents, and other assistance to lessen hardship, or
 - c) in Council's opinion, the supply and availability of rental housing in the City has returned to a healthy state and is able to meet the housing requirements of current and future residents. This decision will be based on a number of factors, including whether:
 - i) rental housing in the City is showing positive, sustained improvement as demonstrated by significant net gains in the supply of rental housing including significant levels of production of rental housing, and continued projected net gains in the supply of rental housing;
 - ii) the overall rental apartment vacancy rate for the City of Toronto, as reported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, has been at or above 3.0% for the preceding four consecutive annual surveys;
 - iii) the proposal may negatively affect the supply or availability of rental housing or rental housing sub-sectors including affordable units, units suitable for families, or housing for vulnerable populations such as seniors, persons with special needs, or students, either in the City, or in a geographic sub-area or a neighbourhood of the City; and

- iv) all provisions of other applicable legislation and policies have been satisfied.
7. Redevelopment of social housing properties, including those which propose a mix of housing including varying levels of rental assistance, varying housing types and forms and/or the inclusion of affordable ownership housing options, that would have the effect of removing a social housing building or related group of buildings containing one or more social housing units, will secure:
- a) full replacement of the social housing units;
 - b) replacement social housing units at rents similar to those at the time of the application, including the provision of a similar number of units with rents geared to household income; and
 - c) an acceptable tenant relocation and assistance plan addressing provision of alternative accommodation for tenants at similar rents, including rent-geared-to-income subsidies, right-of-first-refusal to occupy one of the replacement social housing units and other assistance to mitigate hardship.
8. The conversion to condominium, or the severance or subdivision, of any building or related group of buildings, containing six or more rental housing units will not be approved unless:
- a) all of the rental housing units have rents that exceed mid-range rents at the time of application, or
 - b) in Council's opinion, the supply and availability of rental housing in the City has returned to a healthy state and is able to meet the housing requirements of current and future residents. This decision will be based on a number of factors, including whether:
 - i) rental housing in the City is showing positive, sustained improvement as demonstrated by significant net gains in the supply of rental housing including significant levels of production of rental housing, and continued projected net gains in the supply of rental housing;
 - ii) the overall rental apartment vacancy rate for the City of Toronto, as reported by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, has been at or above 3.0% for the preceding four consecutive annual surveys;
 - iii) the proposal may negatively affect the supply or availability of rental housing or rental housing sub-sectors including affordable units, units suitable for families, or housing for vulnerable populations such as seniors, persons with special needs, or students, either in the City, or in a geographic sub-area or a neighbourhood of the City; and

- iv) all provisions of other applicable legislation and polices have been satisfied.

9. Large residential developments provide an opportunity to achieve a mix of housing in terms of types and affordability. On large sites, generally greater than 5 hectares in size:

- a) a minimum of 30 per cent of the new housing units will be in forms other than single-detached and semi-detached houses, such as row housing, triplexes and multi-unit residential buildings; and
- b) in accordance with and subject to Section 5.1.1 of this Plan where an increase in height and/or density is sought, the first priority community benefit will be the provision of 20 per cent of the additional residential units as affordable housing. This affordable housing contribution may take the form of affordable housing constructed on-site or the conveyance of land in the development to the City for the purpose of affordable housing, or, at the discretion of the City:
 - i) with the agreement of the developer, affordable housing units constructed near the development site or elsewhere in the City;
 - ii) the conveyance of land to the City for the purpose of affordable housing near the proposed development site; or
 - iii) cash in lieu for the purpose of constructing affordable housing in or near the proposed development site.

Housing Definitions

Rental housing is a building or related group of buildings containing one or more rented residential units, including vacant units that have been used for rented residential purposes, and units that are being or have last been used for rented residential purposes in equity co-operative or co-ownership housing, but does not include condominium-registered or life-lease units.

Rental property means the land upon which rental housing is located.

A related group of buildings are buildings that are under the same ownership and on the same parcel of land as defined in section 46 of the *Planning Act*, as may be amended from time to time or form part of the same development application.

Affordable rental housing and **affordable rents** means housing where the total monthly shelter cost (gross monthly rent including utilities – heat, hydro and hot water – but excluding parking and cable television charges) is at or below one times the average City of Toronto rent, by unit type (number of bedrooms), as reported annually by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Affordable ownership housing is housing which is priced at or below an amount where the total monthly shelter cost (mortgage principle and interest – based on a 25-year amortization, 10 per cent down payment and the chartered bank administered mortgage rate for a conventional 5-year mortgage as reported by the Bank of Canada at the time of application – plus property taxes calculated on a monthly basis) equals the average City of Toronto rent, by unit type, as reported annually by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Affordable ownership price includes GST and any other mandatory costs associated with purchasing the unit.

Mid-range rents are the total monthly shelter costs which exceed affordable rents but fall below one and one-half times the average City of Toronto rent, by unit type, as reported annually by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Social housing refers to rental housing units which are owned by a non-profit housing corporation, including housing provided by non-profit housing co-operatives to their members, and which are produced or funded under government programs providing comprehensive funding or financing arrangements, whether or not in partnership with municipal government.