

Toronto Community
Housing Corporation
931 Yonge Street
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Toronto
Community
Housing

May 31, 2011

Joe Pennachetti
City Manager's Office
City of Toronto
City Hall, 11th Floor East Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Pennachetti:

**Subject: Results of Process for Selection of Toronto Community Housing Tenants
for the Toronto Community Housing Board of Directors**

The City of Toronto asked Toronto Community Housing to run the tenant-developed process for selecting two tenants to recommend to City Council as members of the Board of Directors of Toronto Community Housing. The tenant-developed process also recommends two alternates to take the place of one or both of the recommended tenants if they are not able to serve.

Toronto Community Housing has managed the selection process, and I am writing to report that the process ended on Friday, May 27th with the following results.

The result of the selection voting was that Munira Abukar and Catherine Wilkinson were the two candidates who received the highest number of votes and through this submission are hereby recommended to City Council for nomination to the Toronto Community Housing Board of Directors as selected by tenant representatives. Tarak Ahmed and Simone Samuel finished third and fourth in the vote. Their names are provided as alternates should either of the recommended candidates be unable to serve at any point in the future.

The names are provided to the shareholder, through the office of the City Manager, to process within the shareholder Board appointment process.

Conclusion

The vote by tenant representatives of Toronto Community Housing for the selection of two (2) tenants for recommendation to the shareholder for nomination to the Toronto Community Housing Board of Directors is completed.

Sincerely,

Len Koroneos
Chief Executive Officer (Interim)

Attachment: 1: Overview of 2011 Tenant Selection Process
2: Tenant Board Member Nominees and Alternates Profiles

cc: Nancy Autton, City of Toronto, City Manager's Office
Joe Borowiec, City of Toronto, City Manager's Office
Howie Wong, General Counsel, Toronto Community Housing

Attachment 1: Overview of 2011 Tenant Selection Process

Toronto Community Housing began the tenant election process on April 1 with notices mailed to each of their 58,500 tenant households and with posters in their buildings. Four information sessions for prospective applicants were held in north Etobicoke, north Scarborough and Toronto Community Housing's head office on April 12, 13 and 14. The application period closed on April 29. Information about the election process was frequently updated at Toronto Community Housing's web site <http://www.toronthousing.ca/board>.

Toronto Community Housing received a total of 96 applications that met eligibility criteria applicable under the *Business Corporations Act*, the City's Shareholder Direction to Toronto Community Housing, and Toronto Community Housing's tenant-developed Tenant Director Election Process. On Saturday, May 7th, 36 out of a total of 52 eligible delegates spent the day reviewing the tenant applications to produce a short-list of eight candidates to be placed on the election ballot. Each of Toronto Community Housing's 13 Operating Units chose two adult and two youth representatives. The city-wide Tenant Engagement Reference Committee chose four delegates.

During that day, the 36 tenants were divided into eight working groups of four to five persons. Each working group reviewed 12 applications and selected the top three applicants. This screening process produced a short list of 24 applicants. The 24 short-listed applicants were listed on a ballot and voted on by all the delegates by secret vote to choose the eight tenants to be listed on the election ballot.

The campaign and voting process included one all-candidates session on May 16 at North York Civic Centre. Video of that session was uploaded for viewing by persons who did not attend the May 16th session. It is available at <http://www2.webcastcanada.ca/torontohousing/>.

Only Toronto Community Housing tenant representatives, youth representatives and Tenant Engagement Reference Committee members were eligible to vote in the tenant director election. Voting was held at Toronto Community Housing locations across the City from May 24 to 27 using ballots produced by Election Services. Of the total of 529 eligible voters, 256 voted or 48%. Votes were counted by City of Toronto Elections Services' staff using a city vote tabulating machine on May 27 in the presence of Toronto Community Housing staff and the candidates or their representatives.

The two tenants receiving the highest number of votes from Toronto Community Housing tenant representatives have been recommended to City Council for nomination to the Toronto Community Housing Board of Directors. The candidates who finished with the third and fourth highest total of votes have been named as alternates.



Full Name: Munira Abukar

Tell us about the community you live in:

My focus is one that stems from my community which has always been one in the same as my desire which is to help others by using my knowledge and experience in; the social housing. I truly believe that everyone has a specific calling in this world and everybody will experience one event that will ultimately define the way they live I believe that my passion for my community exceeds my age, I understand that university is a large responsibility, however my want to be successful for the disadvantaged tenants who reside within Toronto Community Housing. I genuinely believe that tenants should be given the opportunity to display their true talent and knowledge and that the key success of TCH lies within the ideas, innovation, and trust of the tenants.

Experience:

The reason why I wish to serve as a Board member of this organization is because I am someone who champions the tenants of Toronto Community Housing. I am someone who was born and raised in the walls of Toronto Community Housing. My parents are both modest immigrants who escaped a war torn nation to seek new opportunities in Canada. My parents soon realized the overwhelming pressures of both living and parenting in a foreign nation and continually struggled to grasp the customs, ideals, and language of this land.

Skills:

I have done many events, and initiatives in my community including:
Planning and promoting social awareness events such as Earth Day, donations to Amnesty International, holiday parties, and after-school tutoring sessions for younger children, international night- which became a traditional event at Westmount junior school. I also took part in film workshops with my fellow safety animators, and am striving to create a community garden to create awareness of the importance of a healthy diet. I have also planned many community events including seasonal celebrations, school events, a tutoring service geared towards young

Somali high school students, I am also in the process of creating a community health module with three of my fellow CITY Leader peers in the hopes of bridging the gap between accessible health, and community illnesses. I have also recently been nominated as President of the Racial Profiling sector of The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)

My Message:

I believe the basis of a message should always go back to the foundations of your passion which for me is which is the genuine believe that tenants should be given the opportunity to display their true talent and knowledge and that the key success of TCH lies within the ideas, innovation, and trust of the tenants. This message should be recognized through a plan on allotting an important amount of my personal time to this Board, even if I am not chosen as a candidate. My passion lies in seeing the equitable and just treatment of tenants, and I plan on further advocating this no matter what the outcome is. Through mutual respect, togetherness and hope I believe that the message that I have is the one that tenants display and carry motivating me to do the best I can



Full Name: Catherine Wilkinson

Tell us about the community you live in:

We have a diverse tenant population and Tenants know each other by name, they help each other and unite on issues of importance to them. We take pride in our buildings, have a good relationship with staff, politicians and support from local businesses. We are well known for bringing our neighbours together through our annual community event. My community is a great place to live and I am proud to call it home.

Experience:

TCHC Tenant Board Member
TCHC Board Committee - Chair Communities Committee
TCHC Tenant Representative
TCHC Governance Committee
TCHC TERC Committee
Toronto Public Health – Bed Bug Steering Committee
Director - Innisfil Chamber of Commerce
Director - Community Centre 55

Skills:

3 ½ years serving on the TCHC Board of Directors
Provide oversight and review of TCHC Operations and Capital Repair Budgets and Quarterly Performance Reports
30 years business experience in both the public and private sector
Tenant activist working with people of all ages and abilities from diverse multicultural backgrounds, fighting for fairness and justice
Sound knowledge of TCHC Vision, Mission and Values statements as well as key governing documents and social housing legislation.

My Message:

We must work with tenants to regain their trust and restore public confidence in Toronto Community Housing. Ensure an internal audit function that oversees the integrity and accountability of staff to ensure funding is being used wisely to maximize the return on our investments and more importantly, to improve the quality of life for our tenants. Continue to promote social justice and inclusion for all, connecting tenants with resources they need to succeed. Maximize partnerships to ensure more job opportunities and scholarships for youth. Lobby other levels of government, develop innovative partnerships, and internal means to generate funding to sustain existing housing stock, reduce the backlog of repairs, and build new social housing.

No one has fought longer or harder to represent the needs of our diverse tenant population than I have and to ensure Tenants have a voice on the new TCHC Board. Tenants must be treated with dignity and respect, promote tenant engagement and ensure their efforts are acknowledged and valued. Policies and procedures need to be modified to meet the needs of all Tenants. Quality of services must be delivered consistently city-wide. Create opportunities for Tenant Councils to connect with the TCHC Board.

I am asking you to reinstate me as 1 of your 2 elected Tenant Board Members.
There is much more work to be done and I am ready to get back to work for YOU!

catwilks@hotmail.com
WILKINSON ... Again!

Vote For CATHERINE



Full Name: Tarak Ahmed

Tell us about the community you live in:

I have been a resident of Regent Park, one of the oldest social housing project, for eleven years. Regent Park is a very diverse community, with tenants from all around the world, a community that welcomes everyone. It is currently going through revitalization, and through this massive transformation we will eventually see the current social housing community rebuilt as a vibrant mixed-income community.

Experience:

I grew up in Regent Park and understand the issues of social housing and the impact it has on the tenants. Aside from living in the neighbourhood, I was an employee of Toronto Housing for 5 years. I spent a few years working in the East and West ends of the city and for the last three years I have been working in the downtown communities. As an employee, I had the privilege of working with TCHC youth and tenants and helping them engage in meaningful ways that helps them learn, grow, and stay safe. I am an active volunteer within my community and the city of Toronto. I am currently seating on two boards: the Regent Park Community Health

Skills:

I have my Bachelors of Social Work degree from Ryerson with a minor in Politics. As a social worker by profession, I am trained to advocate for the low income and marginalized communities in Toronto. I have outstanding communication and organization skills that have helped me become a strong advocate for social justice. I am not afraid to speak my mind, such as saying NO to the privatization of Toronto Housing. I have taken the Maytree Foundation DiverseCity onBoard Training, and I have over 5 years of experience seating on committees and boards. I am a graduate of the United Way's Creative Institute for Toronto's young leaders program. Through the program, I have been trained to be an effective leader for young people within the city of Toronto. I work extremely well in a team setting, taking a leadership role when possible and seeking direction when necessary. I am punctual, reliable and a responsible young man

Centre and Dixon Hall. I am also a member of several neighbourhood committees such as the Regent Park Safety Committee.

especially when it comes to working towards the completion of projects.

My Message:

Having lived and worked in Toronto Housing for most of my life, I understand the unique issues that residents in Toronto Housing face, especially the youth. Through my education and experience, and being on several boards, I have the skills that are needed to be a tough board member who is not afraid to voice the issues of the residents, especially giving young people a voice in the board to have their concerns be heard loud and clear. I have the work experience needed to be the ideal board member to the extent the residents truly deserve. As a board member, I will work hard to tackle community issues facing Toronto Housing and make it my duty to ensure residents are getting the best services available from their landlord. Growing up in social housing is not easy, we face challenges every day. I will fight to have services available that will enable resident to live comfortably and raise their children in a safe community that has services to support their needs.



Full Name: Simone Samuel

Tell us about the community you live in:

I live in the Shaughnessy community which is located near Fairview Mall (north of Sheppard and west of Don Mills Rd). It is a very small community consisting of 29 townhouses, in a quiet residential neighbourhood.

Experience:

Over the past 4 years, I have participated in various TCH committees, where I was able to learn more about the organization and the needs of the tenants (Chair of Governance Committee, Chair of Tenant Engagement Reference Committee, and 2 yr Participatory Budgeting Tenant Researcher);

I have over 8 years experience working in Accounting (Accounts Payable and Receivable), where I managed multi-million dollar budgets.

Attended numerous Maytree Foundation workshops (Five Good Ideas), where I interacted with individuals on other boards throughout the City, and learned from others experiences as it relates to Board Governance.

Participated in Toronto Civic Engagement program where I was able to learn firsthand how the city works.

Skills:

As a member of Maytree Foundation's DiverseCity OnBoard, I was trained on Board Governance and How Board's Work;

I have just completed 2 years of legal studies where I learned how to interpret and apply laws, and have work for a Paralegal firm for almost a year, practicing Landlord and Tenant Law;

Certificate in Alternate Dispute Resolution;

Certificate in Entry Level Management

My Message:

It is important that the tenants of Toronto Community Housing are treated equally and fairly despite their race, gender, religion, economic status, etc, and more so important that they are comfortable and content in their dwellings. That said, it is the organization's responsibility is to preserve housing, and to ensure that it's premises are properly maintained in accordance with Property Standards, and that all tenants needs are met as set out in their tenancy agreements, and all applicable Landlord and Tenant legislation and regulations.

I would like to serve as a Board member:

- to be the voice of the tenants throughout the organization's portfolio;
- to advocate for tenants basic needs;
- to ensure that the organization continues to "connect tenants to services and opportunities" according to the mission statement;
- to ensure that our communities are healthy and liveable and that tenants are proud to call it their home;
- to ensure that the organizations adheres to it's values (R.I.I.C.E – Respect, Integrity, Inclusion, Collaboration, and Excellence), and complies with the governing legislation;
- to ensure that the organization follows through with the recommendations in the LeSage report, and that staff complies with the policies and procedures as stated in the Auditor General's report.