

**Executive Committee - Proposed Program Allocations - Investment in Affordable Housing
(Item EX 15.2)**

From: "Kenn Hale (ACTO)" <HaleK@lao.on.ca>
To: <exc@toronto.ca>
Date: 1/23/2012 5:59 PM
Subject: Proposed Program Allocations - Investment in Affordable Housing (Item EX 15.2)
Attachments: Letter to Executive Committee re Program Allocations - Jan 2012.doc

Please see attached letter for the January 24, 2012 meeting.

Thank you.

Kenneth Hale
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services
Advocacy Centre for Tenants - Ontario
425 Adelaide St. W., 5th Floor
Toronto ON M5V 3C1
416-597-5855 ext. 5163
www.acto.ca

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Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario
Centre ontarien de défense des droits des locataires

425 Adelaide St. West, 5th floor, Toronto, Ontario M5V 3C1
Phone: 416-597-5855 1-866-245-4182 Fax: 416-597-5821
www.acto.ca

January 23, 2012

DELIVERED BY EMAIL TO exc@toronto.ca

Executive Committee
City of Toronto
c/o Frances Pritchard
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Committee Members:

Re: Proposed Program Allocations for Federal/Provincial Funding (Item EX 15.2)

I am writing on behalf of the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, a community legal clinic that represents the interests of low-income tenants in housing matters. We are writing to ask that you reject the recommendation of the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, and the Director of the Affordable Housing Office in respect of the allocation of the funds entrusted to the City under the Investment in Affordable Housing program. We ask that you refer the matter back to them with the direction that a proposal for allocation of these funds be developed that is in accordance with the plans adopted and affirmed by Council in the Housing Opportunities Toronto (HOT) plan.

In particular, the allocation of a mere 16% of the only funding available to the City from senior levels of government for new rental housing programs is unacceptable. The HOT plan targeted almost twice that percentage. The funds which should have been allocated to new affordable rental housing have been re-allocated to increase grants and loans to private owners instead of being invested in public assets. The staff report is misleading when it states that their proposed allocations are "based on the priority assigned to new affordable housing."

The only new affordable rental housing that will be developed under this proposal will be part of the previously-approved Regent Park revitalization. Constraining the development of affordable housing so narrowly will deepen the housing crisis faced by Toronto residents that is affecting the City's ability to develop economically and socially.

As part of the Program Review last Fall, the Executive Committee and Council rejected a freeze on development of new affordable housing when that ill-advised policy was recommended by the City Manager. By recommending rejection of the targets in the HOT plan, City staff seek to bring back these failed policies in a new form.

We urge you to continue Toronto's long history of investing in its future. This can only be done by supporting the building of the affordable homes that will be needed as the City continues to grow. The scaling back of senior governments' commitment to this investment means that the HOT targets cannot be fully met. But the City's future development should not be further jeopardized by reallocating the limited money that is available away from public investment in building homes.

Yours truly,

Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario

Per:

Kenneth Hale,
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services