

CD18.5.5



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

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February 15, 2013

Toronto City Council

Re: Community Development & Recreation Committee Motion CD 18.5

Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) to express our support for a motion coming before Council on February 20, 2013. ACTO is a community legal clinic, funded by Legal Aid Ontario with a province-wide mandate to improve the housing situation of low-income residents in Ontario (including tenants, co-op members and people who are homeless).

The Community Development and Recreation Committee has made a number of recommendations to you that are contained in Motion CD 18.5 on the February 20th agenda. This motion aims to ensure access to services for residents of Toronto without immigration documentation, and to have Toronto advocate for undocumented Torontonians at the provincial and federal level. I'm writing to urge you to support this proposal.

People, regardless of their immigration status, should have access to city services that support basic rights to food, shelter, education, and healthcare. Women without documentation should not be afraid to access shelters if they are leaving abuse. By supporting this motion, you will be affirming that that we care for all the residents that live in Toronto. You will also be strengthening our city. People who can freely access basic services have better health, are more active in their communities and are more engaged in the life of their city.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward your support of this important motion.

Yours very truly,
ADVOCACY CENTRE FOR TENANTS ONTARIO
per:

Kenneth Hale
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services