



CC36.5.1

方卓怡 市議員 **Paula FLETCHER**

**Councillor** Toronto-Danforth Ward 30

June 10, 2013

To: Mayor and Councillors

RE: CC36.5 "Housing at Risk" Report from the Ombudsman

With the troubling report from the Ombudsman regarding the eviction of vulnerable tenants within Toronto Community Housing before Council this week, I would like to draw your attention to an important recommendation in the May 2010 "Report on the Eviction of Al Gosling and the Eviction Prevention Policy of Toronto Community Housing Corporation" by the Honourable Patrick J. LeSage.

In Section 6 of his report, Justice LeSage recommended the establishment of an independent Commissioner of Housing Equity with the purpose of mediating resolutions to housing arrears cases and prevent these tragedies from occurring in the future, as seen below.

**Recommendations**

- TCHC should establish a new independent office, the Commissioner of Housing Equity, with sufficient staffing and resources.
- The central function of the Commissioner of Housing Equity is to resolve rent arrears situations, through mediation, and reduce those matters which proceed to the Landlord and Tenant Board. Through this process the Commissioner's Office will link tenants with available community support agencies to get assistance, as needed and identified.

The Ombudsman's report has made clear, that in the years since the LeSage report vulnerable tenants are continuing to be unfairly evicted by TCHC. In light of the Ombudsman's findings, I believe there is the need to establish a stronger, independent safeguard against unfair eviction in the form of a Commissioner of Housing Equity.

City Council has an obligation to ensure TCHC tenants are treated fairly and consistently, and that every effort is made to assist vulnerable tenants in remaining in their homes. Given the conclusions drawn by the Ombudsman, I believe it is now time to take the LeSage recommendation for the Commissioner of Housing Equity very seriously and hope you will too.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paula Fletcher  
Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth

cc: Toronto Community Housing Board of Directors  
Gene Jones, CEO Toronto Community Housing  
Fiona Crean, Ombudsman

