

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM41.2	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Development of a New Long-Term Federal Plan to Fix Canada's Housing Crunch - by Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council endorse the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) housing campaign, "Fixing Canada's Housing Crunch", and urge the Federal Minister of Employment and Social Development to develop a long-term plan for housing that puts core investments on solid ground, increases predictability, protects Canadians from the planned expiry of \$1.7 billion in social housing agreements and ensures a healthy stock of affordable rental housing for Canadians.
2. City Council direct that this resolution be sent to the Federal Minister of Employment and Social Development, the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all Toronto Members of Parliament, all Toronto Members of Provincial Parliament, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities Ontario.

**Summary**

A stable and secure housing system creates and maintains jobs and allows for a range of living options. Housing is essential to attracting new workers, meeting the needs of young families, and supporting seniors and our most vulnerable citizens.

The high cost of housing is the most urgent financial issue facing Canadians, with one in four people paying more than they can afford for housing, and mortgage debt held by Canadians now standing at just over \$1.1 trillion. Housing costs and, as the Bank of Canada notes, household debt, are undermining Canadians' personal financial security, while putting our national economy at risk.

Those who cannot afford to purchase a home rely on the short supply of rental units, which is driving up rental costs and making it difficult to house workers in regions experiencing strong economic activity.

An inadequate supply of subsidized housing for those in need is pushing some of the most vulnerable Canadians on to the street, while \$1.7 billion annually in federal investments in social housing have begun to expire.

Coordinated action is required to prevent housing issues from being offloaded onto local governments and to align the steps local governments have already taken with regard to federal/provincial/territorial programs and policies.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has launched a housing campaign, “Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch”, calling on the Federal government to increase housing options for Canadians and to work with all orders of government to develop a long-term plan for Canada’s housing future. FCM has asked its member municipalities to pass a council resolution supporting the campaign.

Toronto has continuing housing needs, such as the wait list for affordable housing in excess of 90,000 households and few private rental buildings constructed. This summer, the City of Toronto and Toronto Community Housing launched the "Close the Housing Gap" campaign, to persuade other orders of government to stop withdrawing funding and to re-invest in fully funded, long-term housing strategies. Joining with FCM and municipalities from across the country will strengthen Toronto's appeal for the kind of long-term planning and investment made possible by federal leadership.

(Submitted to City Council on November 13 and 14, 2013 as Member Motion MM41.2)

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM41.2