



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

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October 21, 2013

Planning and Growth Management Committee  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen St. West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Committee members,

**Re: City-Wide Zoning By-law Regulations for Dwelling Room Accommodation  
(Agenda Item PG27.5 for October 22 meeting)**

We are writing to support the recommendations of the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning in this matter. These recommendations will serve to advance Council's consideration of an improved regulatory environment for dwelling room accommodation, which is serving a critical housing need in our community.

We find the approach to the public meetings suggested at p. 16 of the report to be unnecessarily negative with respect to this form of housing. Rather than focusing on concerns with illegal rooming houses, the staff presentation should address the important contribution that properly regulated dwelling room accommodation could make to addressing housing needs and protecting City residents. As mentioned in the report, *Housing Opportunities Toronto: An Affordable Housing Action Plan 2010-2020*, seeks to preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing for single persons and recognizes dwelling rooms as part of that supply. As well, the *Action Plan* states that "all residents should be able to live in their neighbourhood of choice without discrimination".

We would also remind the Committee that the rooming house provisions of the Consolidated Zoning By-law are currently the subject of appeals before the Ontario Municipal Board. In considering those appeals, that Board will be looking for a regulatory approach to this form of housing that conforms with good planning and human rights principles. Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Yours very truly,  
**Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario**  
per:

Kenneth Hale  
Director of Advocacy and Legal Services