Affordable Housing Committee Meeting of September 2
AH3.5: TO Prosperity – Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

I am Nancy Singer, the Executive Director of a non-profit housing agency, Kehilla Residential Programme. I am making this deputation to strongly support the recommendations summarized in the April 2015 report – "Affordable Housing in the City of Toronto".

As a non-profit housing provider and having been involved in the housing sector for over 40 years I am only too aware of how difficult it is to provide or build new affordable housing and the overwhelming need for it. Because of the struggle and cost to add new housing stock, we have actually placed our emphasis in a different direction – providing rent assistance, which is an immediate benefit and does not require our applicants to move. The fitting irony of our program is that it is supported not by government dollars, but by donations from the private development industry. We now have 25 developers sponsoring the program and are assisting 60 households with the intent of adding more households each year.

In reviewing the list of recommendations, they are all laudable but also are the same ones I have either been advocating or seeing over the last many years. We are no further ahead and are in fact worse off. The need and numbers have only grown. Why will this Poverty Strategy be any different or more successful? Unless there is an accompanying change in how the City works together bureaucratically or politically, nothing will change.