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Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada
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Toronto City Council Executive Committee

Submission by the Ontario Region of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada on the Report from the Mayor's Task Force on Toronto Community Housing

January 27, 2016.

The Ontario Region of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada would like to thank the City of Toronto for the invitation to attend Tuesday's announcement and congratulate the Task Force for its report and recommendations. We are pleased to speak today at the Executive Committee about the report's findings.

We are here today to strongly urge Toronto City Council to follow Mayor Tory's lead in accepting the report and work to ensure that its recommendations are carried through in a timely manner. While the report contains many insightful recommendations, the transition of TCHC into a new community based non-profit may well be the most transformative.

We believe that empowering residents is one of the most effective ways to improve their lives and create a much more engaged housing community. As the co-op model has shown for decades, there are more effective ways to deliver affordable housing when residents have an opportunity to play a larger role and have a decision-making voice in their communities.

Currently, there are 160 not-for-profit housing co-ops already in the city of Toronto, proud home to some 45,000 people. Each one of those co-ops is its own independent, mixed-income community where residents make the decisions that impact their lives.

We would also like to highlight the example of Atkinson Housing Co-operative. Previously known as Alexandra Park, Atkinson was the first public housing in Canada to be converted to a co-op. This example, found in the heart of downtown Toronto, provides us with not only an example of community development and improvement in the conditions of people living in public housing, but as a path forward for some of the recommendations found in this report.

The co-operative housing sector looks forward to working closely with the City of Toronto and senior levels of government to ensure the challenging work of transforming TCHC into a new community based housing organization proceeds expeditiously.





CHF Canada Ontario Region is the voice of Ontario's co-operative housing movement. Its members include over 550 non-profit housing co-operatives and other organizations across the province. More than 125,000 Ontarians live in housing co-ops, in every region of the province.

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