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Mr. Steve Williams, Chairperson, ALFDC
Mr. Steve Teekens, Chairperson, T.O. Indigenous CAB

Re: Affordable Housing in Toronto – Indigenous Set-aside

Dear Mr. Williams and Mr. Teekens

Thank you for your letters of October 1 and October 15 to Mayor John Tory and City officials. The Mayor's Office has asked that we respond on his behalf to your letters regarding your request for dedicated resources to Indigenous Peoples as part of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan.

The City acknowledges the unique housing challenges Indigenous Peoples in Toronto face on a daily basis. The City engaged some 6,000 residents and organizations as part of the consultation process for developing the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan. Two specific meetings were also held with Indigenous organizations and residents to better understand existing challenges and future priorities and to seek ideas on how the City can support and facilitate Indigenous-led solutions. Summary reports prepared by Lura Consulting as the result of these two sessions are attached to this letter for your information.

The City heard loud and clear in the consultation process that there is a need for an urban, rural and northern Indigenous Housing Strategy as committed by the federal government through the National Housing Strategy. The City supports advocacy efforts by Toronto Indigenous community partners to the federal government to develop and implement a National Indigenous Housing Strategy.

While the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan is still being finalized, I can confirm that the City is committed to continue to work with Indigenous community partners to address the needs and challenges identified. City staff will be recommending an Indigenous set-aside of new affordable rental homes and other housing and homelessness grants and programs

Including housing benefits through the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit initiative set to launch in 2020. City staff will also recommend developing Toronto based Indigenous housing strategies to complement federal and provincial initiatives.

Regards,

Sean Gadon
Executive Director (I) Housing Secretariat
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Copy: Giuliana Carbone, Deputy City Manager, Community and Social services
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