2019.AU4.5 - Safeguarding Rent-Geared-to-Income Assistance: Ensuring Only Eligible People Benefit

AU4.5.3



HousingNowTO.com

"More Paper –

Means More Problems"

October 25, 2019

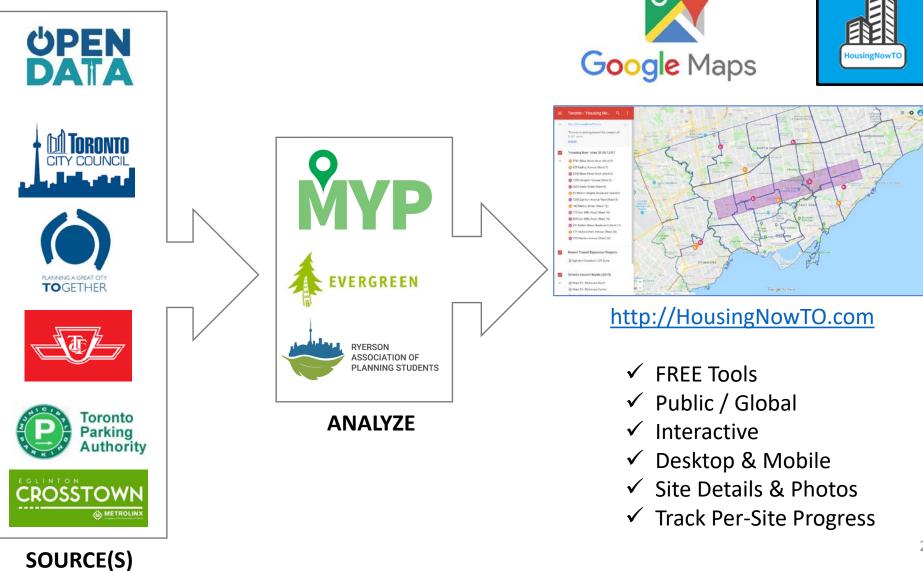
SPEAKER - Mark J. Richardson

CONTACT - info@HousingNowTO.com

TWITTER - @HousingNowTO

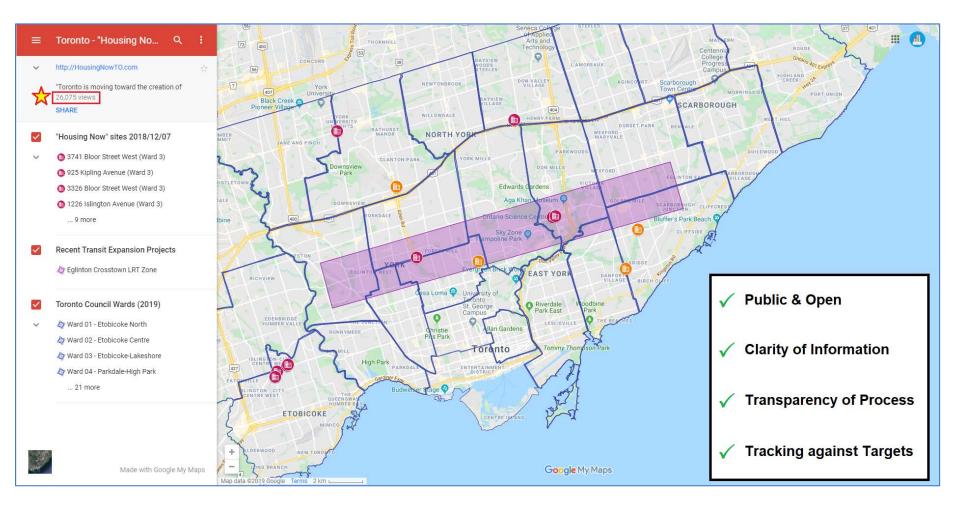


HOUSING NOW





HOUSING NOW



FREE, Public, Interactive Website – http://HousingNowTO.com

HousingNowTO

(Audit) Rent-Geared-to-Income

Collection Consent and Declarat	ion - Household Members 16 Year	or Older Must Sign
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- Indicators of ineligibility are not consistently being identified or acted on.
- Households are not always disclosing property ownership as required by law.
- Households may have unreported sources of income and assets.
- Some RGI households are likely subletting their units.
- Irregular, altered, or falsified documents.
- Weak oversight of housing providers.
- No central system to capture data requirements for RGI households.
- <u>City does not know who is receiving RGI assistance</u> even though this is key information for ensuring stewardship over funds.



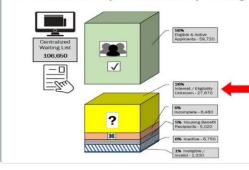
Previous Auditor Reports

JUNE 2019

Auditor General T.O. @TorontoAuditor

Key finding: the city, TCHC and housing providers rely on the data in the list to make housing offers, but we found that much of the data is problematic

1. Improve Integrity of Waiting List Data ... to Know Exactly Who is Actively Waiting



More Paper...

APRIL 2019

NEWS TORONTO CTV Toronto

More than half of private crews billed Toronto for tree maintenance work when GPS records showed they were not at the appropriate sites, according an auditor general report ctv.news/qVE2KiY

MAY 2017



Senior managers 'no longer' working for city amid bidrigging allegations thestar.com/news/city_hall... #TOpoli



...More Problems

Paper-Based Housing Lottery

New buildings: information and selection process

Applications open for a limited time: new buildings affordable rent

You can apply from October 15, 2019.

The deadline is November 15, 2019 at 5 p.m. eastern time.

Two- and three-bedroom affordable rental units will be ready for occupancy in late 2019 in a new Regent Park building located at 150 River Street. Please ensure you review the eligibility document below.

1. Am I eligible for affordable rent?

Find out if you are eligible for affordable rent [PDF]

2. Building and unit information

150 River St.

- 33 affordable rental units
- High-rise building estimated occupancy is late 2019
- There is no parking available for these units

Available affordable rental units

- 2 bedroom: 8 units see floor plan for 2 bedroom unit [PDF]
- 3 bedroom: 25 units see floor plan for 3 bedroom unit [PDF]



Image of new building located at 150 River St. in Regent Park.

To qualify for an affordable rental unit, an applicant's household annual gross income cannot exceed four times the annual rent of the unit they are applying for. Please see the table below for income limit for the units at 150 River St.:

Bedroom Size	Monthly rent (utilities included)	Minimum gross household income per year	Maximum gross household income limit per year
2 bedroom	\$1,194	\$14,328	\$57,312
3 bedroom	\$1,331	\$15,972	\$63,888

33 Unit Housing-Lottery (Application Deadline) – NOV. 15th at 5:00 PM (Eastern)

https://www.torontohousing.ca/rp-applicant-list#xd_co_f=NjkuMTU5LjM4LjE1OC00MTY4NjU0NTkyLjMwNjI0OTk4

Affordable for Who?



Paper-Based Housing Lottery

Toronto Community Housing

Toronto Community Housing

Expression of Interest for Random Selection For Affordable Rent Accommodation At 150 River Street NO PARKING AVAILABLE FOR THESE UNITS

Bedroom Size	Monthly rent (utilities included)	Minimum gross household's income	Maximum gross household's income
		per year	limit per year
2 bedroom	\$1,194.00	\$14,328.00	\$57,312.00
3 bedroom	\$1,331.00	\$15,972.00	\$63,888.00

First Name	Last Name	Date of birth (dd/mm/year)
Current address	City	Postal code
Daytime phone number	E-mail address:	

OTHER HOUSEHOL	_D MEMBERS		
First Name	Last Name	Relationship to primary applicant	Date of birth (dd/mm/year)

HOUSING PREFERENCE

How many bedrooms do you require?

2 bedroom

3 bedroom

(Note: Check only one box. If you check more than one box, you will be disqualified. In order to qualify: each household member can have a bedroom except spouses and common law partners who must share a bedroom. No more than two persons per bedroom)

Only selected applicants, upon random draw ranking, will be given an Application for Affordable Rent Accommodation for verification of:

- 1. Income
- 2. Credit Check
- 3. Landlord Check

Only selected and approved applicants who meet criteria, will be offered a unit.

https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2018/10/25/randomdraw-gives-thousands-a-shot-at-75-affordable-units-intoronto.html



@FredVictorTO

2,773 applicants, 75 units: Inside Toronto's affordable housing lottery thestar.com/news/gta/2018/... via @torontostar



2,773 applicants, 75 units: Inside Toronto's affordable housing lottery | The Star Toronto Community Housing and the city of Toronto held a random draw this week for dozens of its affordable units. They received nearly 4,000 expressions of ... & thestar.com

FALL (2018) Housing Lottery

- 3,779 Expressions of Interest
 - 2,773 Applications Complete/Eligible
 - 1,006 Applications Rejected (26%)
- 75 Housing Lottery Units
- TCH uses MS-Excel to Manage Applications

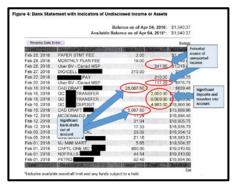
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Fix the Problems = Kill the Paper

Collection, Consent and Declarat	ion - Household Members 16 Yes	ars or Older Must Sign
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- 1. Commit to moving <u>all City processes</u> to Digital.
- 2. Mandate & Fund a "Kill the Paper" policy for City Manager, CTO and all Division Heads.
- 3. Mandate & Fund an "IT Evergreening" policy for City Manager, CTO and all Division Heads to fix/replace ancient IT systems.
- 4. Apply every recommendation from today's Auditor General's Report on Rent-Geared-to-Income processes to the new HOUSING LOTTERY processes for "Housing Now" & "Open Doors" sites.
- 5. Look to Global Best-Practices from other Major Cities.
- 6. Engage the Civic-Tech, Open-Data and Design-Thinking Communities on Fixing the City of Toronto processes around Rent-Geared-to-Income and the HOUSING LOTTERY.