



Serving co-ops in Durham, Toronto and York Region.

December 10, 2019 at 9:30 am.  
Committee Room 1, City Hall

Re: Support for PH 11.5 Housing TO 2020-230 Action Plan

Deputation by Denese Gascho, Board Director, the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto (CHFT)

Good morning chair and committee members. My name is Denese Gascho. I am a long-standing co-op member raising my daughters in the heart of downtown Toronto. I am currently a director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto. I am honoured to be speaking to all of you today on behalf of the CHFT board.

CHFT and our members are in support of the Housing TO Action Plan. We are excited about the **opportunities** the action plan presents for our members over the next ten years. We are pleased the action plan recognizes the **value of housing co-ops** and the role our sector has played and continue to play in providing safe and affordable housing for over forty thousand members across Toronto. We are a diverse and vibrant membership that represents single-parent households, immigrants, students, young families and seniors. Our diversity is our strength and we want to ensure all our members, like me, can continue to thrive in our communities. We believe **the housing co-op model is the best way to achieve permanent affordable housing.**

We are relieved that the action plan recognizes some of the challenges we face in the near future and offers potential solutions to these issues.

Some of these challenges include **maintaining subsidies** past our operating agreements and mortgages and the lack of capital investment in our aging assets. Some of our members co-ops were built on land leased from the City. The members of these co-ops face uncertainly not knowing whether the City will renew the leases. Without the City's commitment to address these issues, we are concerned that there will be a significant impact on our ability to maintain affordability.



Serving co-ops in Durham, Toronto and York Region.

In the middle of a housing crisis, we cannot afford to lose a single affordable housing unit. We are reassured that the Community Housing Partnership Renewal program outlined in the action plan along with other City-lead initiatives will provide permanent and favourable solutions to the challenges we face. The CHFT board of directors and staff are ready to **partner** with the City to ensure the housing goals outlined in the action plan are met. We are part of the solution. We look forward to working with the City to maintain and expand the affordable housing plan.