



January 23, 2019

To: Mayor John Tory, Chair, Executive Committee
Members, Executive Committee

From: Daryl Chong, Greater Toronto Apartment Association

Re: EX1.1 Implementing the “Housing Now” Initiative

The Greater Toronto Apartment Association (“GTAA”) represents the interests of the multi-family, purpose-built rental housing industry. Our members own and manage more than 150,000 units of multi-family, purpose-built rental housing in the GTA, mostly in the City of Toronto.

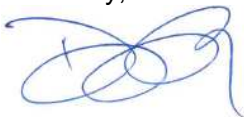
We applaud Mayor Tory, the Executive Committee and City Council for bringing this initiative forward. This results-oriented approach adopts a “best use” rather than “highest value” disposition methodology.

Last year, the Ontario government proceeded with the West Don Lands and Grosvenor / Grenville sites following the success of your Open Door initiative. Housing Now also builds on the success of Open Door.

All governments, and their agencies, boards and commissions own vacant, surplus or underutilized land assets. A comprehensive inventory should be compiled, which includes details regarding the former use, current use and future plans at each site. This exercise may identify the next inventory of Housing Now sites.

GTAA’s members have decades of experience in the development and operation of rental housing. We would build more, if we could. Land acquisition is the largest financial impediment to building rental housing in Toronto. Zoning approvals are often challenging and time consuming. Housing Now will bring 11 sites forward, with zoning already in place, and a one-stop Housing Secretariat to speed up the process. The report recognizes the urgency in providing housing quickly and lists many ways to expedite delivery. We look forward to the next step. Congratulations.

Sincerely,



Daryl Chong
President & CEO
Greater Toronto Apartment Association