

From: [Melody Li](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: Support for MM12.21 - Ending Homelessness - Building New Supportive Housing Now
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Attachments: [HCT logo text transparent.png](#)



November 26, 2019

To Mayor John Tory and Toronto City councillors:

Homeless Connect Toronto (HCT) is in strong support of Councillor Cressy's and Wong-Tam's motion MM12.21, *Ending Homelessness - Building New Supportive Housing Now - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam.*

Homeless Connect Toronto sees and hears the stories first-hand of members of our community struggling to find their way out of homelessness. When City Council committed to building 18,000 new supportive housing units in our city over the next 10 years, it was a welcomed response. It gave hope for these individuals to know that homelessness is an unacceptable crisis and to hear this commitment to end homelessness from City Council was a warm relief.

Recognizing that Toronto is a major hub in this country, we know it takes all levels of government to make this a reality. But this includes committing, the 1/3 share by the City in its 2020 budget to this priority. This bold act of municipal leadership will put needed pressure on the other orders of government and help create the path for their action and contributions. Ontario has responsibility for housing its residents as they cross municipal borders, and the federal government aims to reduce chronic homelessness in half by 2028. They cannot do this without concerted effort in Toronto that they must also contribute to.

Supportive housing is one key area that can address chronic homelessness. By investing in supportive housing, individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness will finally have an opportunity to rebuild their home, which will then free up space in our current at-capacity shelter system. With over 17,000 individuals in Toronto living with serious and persistent mental health challenges on the waitlist for supportive housing, investing in new supportive housing is necessary.

We look forward to supporting the next steps of this plan.

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Melody Li

Executive Director
Homeless Connect Toronto

e: melody.li@hctoronto.org



w: hctoronto.org

Next Homeless Connect Toronto Event

October 25, 2020

#HCT8

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