



The Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre:
"A community where people rebuild their lives." CC20.6.3

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Wednesday April 29th 2020

Mayor Tory
Toronto City Council

Re: agenda item is CC20.6 - Implementing the Toronto Modular Housing Initiative as an Urgent Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

To the Honourable Mayor and City Councillors,

Please accept this letter as indication of the Parkdale Activity – Recreation **Centre's** support of the request by Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness for the creation of 1000 modular housing units this year. Having personally seen the Vancouver pilot up close last year, along with the evidence from the pilot, there is no doubt that modular housing works. Toronto does not need a pilot. The city needs a scalable solution immediately.

For those of you who do not know our organization, PARC is a supportive housing provider in the west end of Toronto as such, we are painfully aware that there are over 18,000 people on the supportive housing waitlist. A tally that grew by 1600 annually prior to COVID-19. PARC was recently provided the opportunity to add 38 units of affordable housing in partnership with the city and the Affordable Housing office which is a remarkable investment, yet it pales in comparison to the growing need.

The City's Shelter Support & Housing Administration has identified that people who are homeless, in shelters or congregate settings are at a higher risk to contract COVID-19 and we can expect more than one wave over the next 18 months. Today the city reported 211 people with covid-19 in the shelter system. The TAEH proposal can be part of a COVID-19 solution that can have an impact right now.

Notwithstanding the above opportunity more is needed.

In the autumn of 2019 council called for a federal investment of \$600 million per year (a motion by Kristen Wong Tam which passed unanimously), funds that would help the City deliver on its target of 18000 supportive housing units over 10 years. The unanimously supported motion should be included

in a funding request for post COVID relief. We know that every dollar invested in housing has a \$1.50 multiplier effect on the economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'VW', followed by a long horizontal line.

Victor Willis
Executive Director
PARC