



City of Toronto - Budget Committee  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

January 25, 2021

Dear Members of the Budget Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Scarborough Civic Action Network (SCAN), a non-partisan, community-driven network whose aim is to help mobilize a civic voice for Scarborough, one that is inclusive of marginalized and underrepresented communities, and address inequities across Scarborough through civic engagement.

Through widespread engagement with communities across Scarborough, SCAN has learned that **affordable housing** for low to moderate income tenants living in market rental housing is the top priority issue for 2020-21 facing Scarborough residents.

As City Council decides the 2021 Budget, SCAN urges you to ensure that this budget prioritizes safe, secure and decent housing for everyone including tenants living in market rental housing. As many human rights activists have pointed out, adequate housing is essential to one's sense of dignity, safety, inclusion and ability to contribute to the fabric of our neighbourhoods and societies.

SCAN has engaged tenants across Scarborough and we have heard a wide range of stories that speak to many needs including:

- the need for low to moderate income tenants living in market rental housing to be protected from abusive landlords and have access to information and supports that protect and support tenants
- the need to ensure tenants' rights are respected so they can live in dignity, free from fear and abuse
- the need for tenants to have access to affordable housing

SCAN calls for a city budget that will support more affordability for tenants by funding programs that will help keep tenants in market rental housing affordably housed such as RentSafeTO which works to ensure that apartment building owners comply with building maintenance standards, the Tenant Defense Fund which helps tenants advocate for themselves and other programs that support tenants and their rights. Most tenants need support. Many are fearful of challenging landlords owing to worries of reprisal and potential eviction.

SCAN also calls for a budget that will increase the supply of truly affordable housing (i.e. housing that is not more than 30% of a person's income). We know the waitlist for Toronto Community Housing is more than 10 years. We know that there are many people in need of truly affordable housing and more needs to be done.

Affordable housing for low to moderate income tenants living in market rental housing is an equity issue as many tenants are racialized and made up of immigrants. Addressing these affordable housing issues is a means to a more equitable city. As you decide the city budget for 2021, we urge you to ensure supports for vulnerable renters in this city are prioritized.

Sincerely,

Anna Kim on behalf of the Scarborough Civic Action Network (SCAN)