



MIZIWE BIIK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
GTA ABORIGINAL HOUSING PROGRAM

Letter of Support from MBDC

September 21, 2021

Members of City Council
City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Councillors,

Regarding the Support of the Creation of 5,200 Affordable Rental Homes
“For Indigenous, By Indigenous”
Memorandum of Understanding with Miziwe Biik Development Corporation

As President of the Board of Directors and founding member of Miziwe Biik Development Corporation (MBDC), I would like to give you an overview of our vision and our success in delivering various Federal-Provincial Indigenous housing programs.

Our Vision

To strengthen our Indigenous community by providing opportunities that enable economic advancement in an environment supportive of Indigenous culture and identity. MBDC serves as a pioneer for economic advancement and self-sufficiency of the Indigenous community in the GTA by improving quality of life through safe affordable housing.

Overview

MBDC was established in 2009 as the result of an extensive consultation process to determine how best to utilize the Aboriginal Housing Trust Fund within the community. Since that time, MBDC has been providing affordable housing solutions to the Indigenous community by providing financial assistance, in partnership with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), to Indigenous Housing Providers for the creation of safe, affordable rental development. MBDC partners with community Indigenous Service Providers to assist households by providing support services that enhance housing stability.

While safe affordable housing is in short supply across Ontario, it is especially true for the Indigenous community in the GTA. In the City of Toronto Indigenous persons are consistently over-represented in the homeless population and households in Core Household Need exceed that of non-Indigenous households.

Clients served by MBDC-funded projects are primarily the working poor, persons precariously housed and homeless persons.

Successful program delivery of various Federal-Provincial Indigenous Housing Programs include:

Aboriginal Housing Trust (2010)

Investment in Affordable Housing and Extension (2014 & 2016)

Social Infrastructure Fund (2017)

Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (2018)

Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (2019)

Social Services Relief Fund under the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program in response to COVID-19 (2020 - present)

In closing, our track record in providing safe, affordable housing for Toronto's Indigenous community has been very successful but the need is great, therefore, I respectfully ask City Council to approve a partnership, in the form of a memorandum of understanding with MBDC as the intermediary Indigenous organization to fulfil the 5,200 affordable rental units of the "For Indigenous, By Indigenous" affordable rental housing component of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



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Nancy Martin

President,
Miziwe Biik Development Corporation

Cc. Lorna Lawrence
Executive Director
Miziwe Biik Development Corporation

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