



March 25, 2021

To: Councillor Thompson, Chair, Economic and Community Development Committee
Members, Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Daryl Chong, Greater Toronto Apartment Association

Re: EC20.3 Toronto Rent Bank and Eviction Prevention in the Community Programs – Update

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 across the GTA, mostly in the City of Toronto.

Eviction is not the preferred way to end a residential tenancy. It is a last resort. Prevention is favoured. Keeping customers is a goal of any successful business.

We support this report’s program changes to increase access and uptake.

The piloting of Toronto’s Rent Bank program as a grant program instead of a loan program for a year will significantly help. We request that you allow willing owners to voluntarily provide additional grants on a case-by-case basis to qualified applicants. Many owners wish to participate in a meaningful way. Leave the mechanics and logistics to the City and your service provider.

Reducing the application barriers is critical to many who are in need of assistance. Increasing the eligibility parameters will create more access and better align with existing government financial assistance programs.

GTAA will continue to update our members of the expanded criteria. They in turn will share this information with impacted residents so that previously denied applicants, or those who did not apply (self-disqualified) because their arrears or incomes exceeded the published allowed maximum amounts, can reconsider and successfully qualify.

We support the City’s request and emphatically encourage the Federal and Provincial governments to provide urgent renter assistance that supports tenants to avoid evictions due to arrears and pay the rent during the pandemic. Consideration should be given to a flexible program that provides more for those who need more to focus on positive outcomes.

For more information, please contact info@gtaaonline.com