

June 18, 2021

North York Community Council  
c/o Carlie Turpin  
North York Civic Centre  
Main floor, 5100 Yonge St.  
Toronto, ON M2N 5V7

**Re: Request for an update regarding the current status of hiring a new Director for Community Planning,  
North York District**

Dear Councillors:

On behalf of our members, the Toronto Region Board of Trade (“the Board”) is a strong advocate for increasing the supply of housing in the City of Toronto, particularly affordable and accessible housing. Without a strong supply of affordable housing, we will not be able to attract and retain the talent needed to maintain our edge as a globally competitive city-region.

The planning and approvals process is a critical part of building the new housing, offices and other facilities that the city’s growing population will need. While there will always be pressure for development reviews and approvals to proceed more quickly, the Board recognizes the hard work that City staff have invested over the past few years to improve the process.

It was quite concerning to learn that the important position of Director of Community Planning for the North York District has been vacant for nearly 18 months. North York is second only to the downtown core on the number of development applications meant to add new homes and jobs, and a predictable and effective planning office is essential to support our city’s business growth.

The Board commends the Councillors for drawing attention to this issue to request the role be filled as quickly as possible.

This motion also presents an opportunity to consider whether the current size of the Planning department is sufficient to handle the volume of development applications they are expected to handle. Delays in reviewing files lead to increased appeals to the Toronto Local Appeal Body (TLAB) and Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT), which further prevents much-needed projects. Councillors and City Planning should work to ensure that all existing vacancies are filled quickly, and also make the case for increased staff if needed.

Sincerely,

Roselle Martino  
Vice President, Public Policy  
Toronto Region Board of Trade