



May 20, 2021

*Sent via email - phc@toronto.ca*

Dear Chair and Committee members,

We are writing today to support the recommendations and plan contained in the staff report for **Item PH23.7 – 877 Yonge Street – Long-term Lease Agreement to deliver Affordable Rental Homes with Support Services.**

This project will allow 127 people to secure good, permanent housing, with the supports they need to be successful. This is a critical step towards the City's vision, shared by the TAEH, of a Toronto where homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. It is also going to make a life-changing difference to the new tenants at 877 Yonge Street.

This site is the first success of our joint efforts to bring the City's leadership on creating more supportive housing in Toronto and the opportunity of the federal Rapid Housing Initiative together. As you will recall, in December 2020, City Council approved Item PH19.11 on "Emergency Housing Action." This included the direction for the Housing Secretariat to work with the TAEH and the Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB) to convene the non-profit supportive housing providers in the city to identify, collectively, the best suitable model for each site in this first, rapid phase.

There is no doubt that St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society is an excellent choice to deliver the housing with supports at 877 Yonge Street. St. Clare's has a long, successful history in doing so across many neighbourhoods in Toronto. The choice of St. Clare's for this site is the result of a deep and inclusive engagement process facilitated by the TAEH for the non-Indigenous sector, meaning that it has the support of the broader supportive housing sector that is part of our Alliance as well.

In creating much needed and permanent, dignified homes for over 100 people by June 2021, 877 Yonge Street is the right thing to do. It is also the smart thing to do - the cost-benefit analysis of investing in supportive housing over emergency responses to homelessness is, of course, now well known.

As we wrote to City Council late last year, it is no small thing to create 127+ new supportive housing opportunities in a matter of months. We are pleased and encouraged by the City's – elected officials and staff - vision and commitment to do so.

The TAEH remains equally committed to doing our part. This includes continuing to advocate to other orders of government to follow Toronto's example and prioritize and fund housing with supports. We are encouraged that recent efforts by all of us resulted in a second phase of the Rapid Housing Initiative in the federal budget, and some new funding for supports from the province.

In conclusion then, we encourage you to support today's report and we look forward to contributing to the future success of the actions and outcomes contained within it.

Sincerely,

Kira Heineck, Executive Director

**Committed to Ending Homelessness**

[www.taeh.ca](http://www.taeh.ca)

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