

Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ Communities in Accessing Safe Affordable and Supportive Housing

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Introduction

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The Housing Secretariat

- Housing Lead for the City of Toronto and responsible for leading and overseeing delivery of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan
- We establish partnerships with Indigenous communities, other orders of government, private and non-profit organizations, researchers, and people with lived experience to grow and improve Toronto's housing system.
- We manage the planning and delivery of new affordable and supportive housing, and maintenance of existing housing stock, through programs including:
 - Housing Now Initiative
 - Modular Housing Initiative
 - Rapid Housing Initiative
 - Open Door Affordable Rental Housing Program
 - Toronto Renovates Program

HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan

- The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan (HousingTO Plan) was adopted by City Council in December 2019 and provides a blueprint for action across the full housing spectrum – from homelessness to rental and ownership housing to long-term care for seniors
- The HousingTO Plan sets a target to help over 341,000 households through directing new and enhanced strategic investments from all orders of governments to:
 - Approve 40,000 affordable rental homes, including 18,000 supportive housing units;
 - Enhance eviction prevention measures;
 - Help people stay in their homes; and
 - Support in-home care and long-term care options for seniors.
- As part of the HousingTO Plan, the City is focused on increasing the supply of new affordable, accessible homes.
- The HousingTO Plan also emphasizes the need to engage with communities and people with lived experience to deliver housing and supports that respond to their needs and strengths.

HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan

- Proposes 13 strategies and 76 actions to help households access and maintain safe, secure, adequate and affordable housing options
- Implementing the Plan is estimated to cost all orders of government \$23.4 billion, comprising of:
 - City investment of \$8.5 B (\$2.9B outstanding)
 - Federal request of \$7.9B (\$6.4B outstanding)
 - Provincial request of \$7.0 B (\$6.9B outstanding)

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?

1. Adopt a revised "Toronto Housing Charter – Opportunity for All"
2. Enhance Partnerships with Indigenous Community Partners
3. Prevent Homelessness and Improve Pathways to Housing Stability
4. Provide Pathways to Support Women
5. Maintain and Increase Access to Affordable Rents
6. Meeting the Diverse Housing Needs of Seniors
7. Ensure Well-Maintained and Secure Homes for Renters
8. Support Toronto Community Housing and its Residents
9. Continue the Revitalization of Neighbourhoods
10. Create New Rental Housing Responsive to Residents' Needs
11. Help People Buy and Stay in Their Homes
12. Improve Accountability and Transparency in Delivery of Housing Services to Residents
13. Enhance Partnerships and Intergovernmental Strategy



HousingTO: Progress to Date

- The City is making significant progress on items in the HousingTO Action Plan. The first annual update report will be made public in October.
- In 2020, the City adopted a 24 month Housing & Homelessness Plan, aimed at creating 2,000 new supportive homes through acquisitions and modular construction.
 - By the spring of 2022, with support from other orders of government the City will have created 1,248 new affordable supportive housing units for people experiencing homelessness
 - The City's modular housing initiative (MHI) and federal funding through the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) have been key to delivering these new units

HousingTO Commitments to 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

- HousingTO Action Plan contains commitments specific to 2SLGBTQ+ people, recognizing this community faces discrimination in the housing system which creates significant barriers to realizing housing stability.

Action 13: Develop strategies and programs that meet the needs of specific populations.

- ❑ a. Develop specific interventions for equity deserving and vulnerable groups with specific needs, including 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. We have committed to develop a work plan with key stakeholders from equity-deserving and vulnerable groups and people with lived experience to meet these needs.
- As stated in the HousingTO Action Plan Implementation Plan, the Housing Secretariat is developing a Data Strategy. Through the design and implementation of our data strategy, we hope to strengthen the City's collection and use of equity-related demographic data in order to help us assess need and measure if we are achieving equitable housing outcomes.

Key Next Steps & Opportunities for Input

- Housing Secretariat will continue leading development of new affordable and supportive housing. In our latest submission for RHI funding, we have included projects with partners that will support 2SLGBTQ individuals
- We will establish a 2SLGBTQ advisory / working group to:
 - Build a work plan for the City to deliver on commitments to equity & inclusion across the housing continuum
 - Inform strategies to deliver inclusive and supportive housing options for 2LSGBTQ individuals (particularly Two-Spirit, Indigenous, Black, trans and people of colour). This includes the physical design of buildings/units as well as operating and support models.



Key Next Steps & Opportunities for Input

- The Housing Secretariat is coordinating the fulfillment of other priorities that intersect with the strengths and needs of 2SLGBTQ+ communities – such as:
 - development of an equitable data strategy,
 - establishing the role or function of a Housing Commissioner,
 - new affordable housing development design guidelines that include universal design and accessibility
 - the development of an access system to connect people to affordable housing.
- We welcome your advice and guidance on how we engage with 2SLGBTQ+ communities, including service providers, community advocates, and people with lived experience