



Monday March 28, 2022.

To : City of Toronto Executive Committee

My name is Susan Aihoshi. I am writing you on behalf of Japanese Canadians for Social Justice, a group that aims to build community support for human rights and social justice. JCSJ is joining in the call for the expropriation of 214-230 Sherbourne for social housing.

Our history as Japanese Canadians is one of mass displacement by systemic government forces. We were forced from our homes into homelessness and insecurity, warehoused on the exhibition grounds of Vancouver, and shipped to internment camps, so we understand what it means to be without a home. Our history as Japanese Canadians also includes the fight for redress, as well as for human rights. These rights include the right to live, the right to basic shelter, and the right to housing.

The shelters are full. There is no where to go for many people. People are being left to die on our streets without housing. On February 4, a homeless man froze to death in a bus shelter just down the street from the vacant property at 214-230 Sherbourne. It is not acceptable that the profit of development companies be allowed to take precedence over human life.

If a condo is built on this site instead of social housing, it will only worsen an extremely dire situation for people in this community. It will force dislocation and displacement, rather than help prevent it. The City of Toronto has an opportunity to take a concrete action in the face of the devastating housing and homelessness crisis. We call on you at the Executive Committee and all of Toronto City Council to move forward with the expropriation of 214-230 Sherborne. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Susan Aihoshi
on behalf of Japanese Canadians for Social Justice
jcforsocialjustice@gmail.com