



July 5th, 2022

Deputy Mayor Ana Bailão
Chair of the Planning and Housing Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

Re: PH35.22 Status Update: A New Regulatory Framework for Multi-Tenant Houses

We are writing to you to express our concern regarding continued delays to adopt a new regulatory framework for multi-tenant houses. We are representatives of the Right to Housing Toronto (R2HTO), a network of organizations and individuals working to support the implementation of the right to housing by the City of Toronto.

It is important to reiterate a point that is well known across the City, that multi-tenant houses are a rare affordable housing option for our city's lowest income households. For example, many students and newcomers to Canada find some degree of financial relief through availing of these homes especially at a time when the cost of living has been skyrocketing because of inflation.

In lieu of insufficient new affordable housing stock coming into the market in a timely manner, introducing a coherent approach to legalizing all multi-tenant homes is a critical component of the City's human rights approach to housing. A broad regulatory framework would also minimize the extent to which many of these buildings are poorly maintained because of no oversight, in turn, putting the health and safety of many of these residents at risk.

Myriad iterations to managing multi-tenant houses have been contemplated over the years, in depth, and communities have been consulted at every stage. The City is well prepared to move forward with an effective policy if it chooses to do so. The additional requests that have been made to staff to work on before contemplating such a move can conceivably move forward iteratively to complement and strengthen an overarching regulatory framework. They should not be used to delay the introduction of the policy.

We therefore urge Council to make legalizing multi-tenant houses across Toronto a priority in the first quarter of its next term.

On behalf of the Right to Housing Toronto