

From: [Matt Noble](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#); [Councillor Carroll](#); [Councillor Jaye Robinson](#); [Councillor Ainslie](#); [Councillor Mantas](#); [Councillor Moise](#); [Councillor Thompson](#)
Subject: [External Sender] UrbanHensTO bad for bird flu / community safety / and hens / and thank you for everything you're doing for the people of Toronto!
Date: April 24, 2023 12:58:27 PM

Dear Economic and Community Development Committee members,

I hope this finds you all well, and I want to thank you for all the great work you've been doing this term around emergency and permanent housing for Toronto's most vulnerable.

As a committee, I've watched and appreciated the care, professionalism and concern that has grounded your committee decisions over the past few months.

As the lead for Toronto Vegetarian Food Bank and the Veg Food Bank Farm, I'm writing to express my concern about the backyard UrbanHensTO pilot.

As I'm sure you are aware, many of the recent outbreaks of avian influenza this year have been in backyard flocks and, aside from being transmitted to many different mammals, in which the virus could mutate, it has already killed a family member dog just outside the city.

Given that most people who are struggling with food insecurity also don't have backyards, I fear the pilot doesn't really address food insecurity, and so doesn't justify the risk.

The lack of veterinary care for hens is also a concern.

My hope is that the UrbanHensTO pilot will be phased out.

Thanks for your time, attention, and everything you are doing for the city.

Sincerely,

--

Matt Noble
Executive Director
[Toronto Vegetarian Food Bank & Farm](#)