



OFFICE OF
**BRAD
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Toronto City Councillor
Beaches—East York | Ward 19

TORONTO CITY HALL
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Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
2118 Danforth Ave East
Toronto, Ontario M4C 1J9

January 18th 2023

Dear Members of Planning and Housing Committee,

Re: Creating New Affordable and Supportive Homes for People Experiencing Homelessness

BACKGROUND:

The Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) is a federal capital funding program which aims to create new affordable rental housing within an expedited time frame for people experiencing or those at risk of homelessness. This program has been critical in scaling up the supply of deeply affordable homes primarily through modular construction, acquisitions and/or conversions.

In November 2022, the federal government announced the third phase of RHI which will allocate: \$500 million nationally to municipalities under the Cities Stream; and \$1 billion nationally via an applications-based process to provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous governing bodies and organizations, and non-profit organizations. Eligible projects must be delivered within 18 months and the City is required to submit an investment plan to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) by March 15, 2023 with a list of potential projects for funding consideration.

In order to meet the March 15, 2023 timeline, staff are reviewing a number of City-owned sites which might be appropriate to building modular homes, and potential acquisition opportunities including a few existing shelter hotel sites. As part of these efforts, it is critical that public lands owned by City agencies, boards and corporations, including Toronto Community Housing Corporation, be explored. It is also pivotal that the federal and provincial governments invest their surplus land holdings in order to scale up housing supply in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. City Council reiterate its request to the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to support the creation of new housing opportunities for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness by identifying and dedicating surplus lands within Toronto for new affordable rental and supportive housing.
2. City Council, as Shareholder, direct the Board of Directors of Toronto Community Housing Corporation to provide the President and Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, with authority to enter into lease arrangements with the City of Toronto for a term of 50 years less a day, for sites deemed appropriate by City staff, and following consultation with the President and Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Community Housing, to create new supportive housing.

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3. City Council, as Shareholder, direct the Board of Directors of Toronto Community Housing Corporation to request the President and Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Community Housing Corporation to engage with the Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation, City and CreateTO staff as appropriate, and provide the City Manager and Executive Director, Housing Secretariat with a list of at least four potential, suitable sites that could be intensified to create new modular or other forms of supportive housing by no later than February 21, 2023.
4. City Council request the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat to report back to the Planning and Housing Committee by July 5, 2023, with details of the City funding allocations through RHI Phase 3, a list of proposed projects, and to seek any required authorities to advance such projects.

Respectfully,

Brad Bradford

Toronto City Councillor

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