

September 21, 2023

Dear Planning and Housing Committee Members,

RE: 2023.PH6.1 - HousingTO 2023-2030 Action Plan – 2022-2023 Annual Progress Update

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto (**CHFT**), CHFT's 185 housing co-op members, and the 50,000 people who live in those co-ops, I offer our collective support for the recommendations in the report of the Executive Director of the Housing Secretariat dated September 14, 2023.

In its 49-year history, CHFT has been instrumental in developing 60 housing co-ops comprising 6300 units, some new construction, and some rehabilitation of existing buildings, most of which occurred in the 80s and early 90s. The past 25 years have been a dark period for co-op housing development in Ontario, with no federal or provincial programs and scarce public funds. Despite this, CHFT added over a hundred newly constructed units to Toronto's housing coops and converted another building of 410 units from rental to co-op. Today, CHFT has a small co-op expansion currently under construction in Ward 14, Riverdale, spearheaded by and with the strong support of Councillor Paula Fletcher. CHFT is exploring many other potential opportunities, including a possible 600 unit development in partnership with a private sector developer on a CreateTO Housing Now site at 2444 Eglinton, Ward 21; and the acquisition of condo units in buildings in a number of wards, including more units in Ward 14.

The recommendations to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (the **MOU**) with CHFT and its sister organization, CHFT Development Society Inc. and to include an amount up to \$400,000, from within the Housing Secretariat's approved 2023 Operating Budget, to support the identification of and pre-development work related to the new affordable non-profit co-operative identified under the MOU, is indeed welcome news. If approved, it will allow us to pursue opportunities in a more co-ordinated and proactive manner, which is surely to result in providing more affordable, safe, secure, and stable co-op housing units to meet the demand.

In addition, we wholly support the introduction of a fund in the amount of \$100,000, also included in the Housing Secretariat's pre-approved 2023 Operating Budget, to support capacity building among existing co-ops. Our membership prides itself on its commitment to the co-operative principles, including Principle 5, Education, Training, and Information. We embrace the chance to expand those opportunities through our education program with the introduction of this new funding. Our partnership with the City of Toronto has been long and fruitful already, and this vote of confidence only serves to strengthen our commitment to do our part to assist in a meaningful way in solving the housing crisis.

Regards,



Tom Clement
Executive Director, CHFT