



September 22, 2023

Planning and Housing Committee
City of Toronto

Dear Planning and Housing Committee Members,

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

I am the Chair of the Board of CHFT Development Society Inc. (**CHFT Dev**), and I am pleased to write in support of recommendations 4 and 6 contained in this staff report related to CHFT Dev.

I hold the endowed chair in housing at the University of Toronto. In my 40-year academic career I have advocated for a community-based approach to housing and the self-governance model for social housing. Co-op housing provides an inclusive and democratic housing tenure that ensures stable, affordable housing and neighbourhoods.

I have a long-term relationship with CHFT, even pre-dating my academic life, assisting with the development of Toronto's housing co-ops in the late 1970s and early 1980s. I was pleased to be asked to join the board of CHFT's newly incorporated development corporation, CHFT Dev, in 2022. CHFT has been instrumental in developing many vibrant co-op housing communities in its nearly 50-year history, most under the federal and then provincial programs of the 80s and 90s, but some even in the last 30 years against all odds. CHFT Dev was established to help restore co-op housing development capacity in Toronto.

On behalf of the CHFT Dev board, I look forward to working with the City as a partner in a Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU) and CHFT. We commit to ensuring the responsible use of the \$400,000 allocation to support the identification of and pre-development work related to the new affordable non-profit co-operative. We are confident such funds will allow CHFT and CHFT Dev to pursue the many additional opportunities that present themselves and we will proactively seek out still others that together will provide more affordable, safe, secure, and stable housing co-operatives.

We applaud the City's return to public investment in co-op development!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. David Hulchanski".

J. David Hulchanski, PhD, M.Sc.(Pl)
Professor, Endowed Chair in Housing
Factor-Inwentash, Faculty of Social Work
University of Toronto

Chair, CHFT Development Society Inc.