



September 28, 2023

Planning and Housing Committee

Sent via email - phc@toronto.ca

RE: PH6.1 HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan – 2022-2023 Annual Progress Update – September 28, 2023 Meeting

Dear Councillor Gord Perks and Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

The Toronto Shelter Network (TSN) represents more than 32 organizations that collectively deliver Toronto's 24-hour homelessness services, including traditional shelters, respite centres, 24-hour drop-ins, transitional housing and the COVID-19 shelter hotels. We enhance the collective capacity of homelessness service providers in Toronto through knowledge sharing and learning, collaborative planning, research and advocacy, and champion access to housing with dignity for people experiencing homelessness.

Like the City, TSN is committed to making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring but we still have twice as many people entering the shelter system as leaving it currently. We have now reached 10,000 people per night staying in shelters in Toronto while Central Intake is turning away 300 people per day. Affordable and supportive housing is the only long-term solution to homelessness.

The progress made in the 2022-2023 Annual Progress Update was good, especially with the pandemic impacts, but the need is so great. To continue this progress TSN supports the recommendations of the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat to:

- Improve access to Rent-Geared-to-Income and Affordable Rental Homes
- Support capacity building for existing non-profit housing co-operatives and pursue the development of new co-operative housing with the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto
- Continue to request financial support from the other orders of government to support the delivery of the \$33.2 billion HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan
 - \$7.6 billion from the Province of Ontario (\$1 billion committed)
 - \$10.0 billion from the Federal Government (\$2.3 billion committed)

We understand that the City is facing urgent financial challenges and that without the support of other orders of government or new municipal funding tools the City will not be able to achieve the goals of the HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan. TSN supports the City's leadership efforts in creating more affordable and supportive housing for the City's most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,

Leslie Gash, Executive Director

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Cc: TSN Board of Director Organizations

Dixon Hall - Eva's Initiatives - Fred Victor Centre - Homes First - Salvation Army - Street Haven

- Sojourn House - Friends of Ruby - St. Felix Centre - City of Toronto