



Chair & Members
Striking Committee
City Hall 100 Queen St. West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

August 10, 2023

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations' (FMTA) Tenant Action Committee, we would like to thank you for calling a Special Meeting of the Striking Committee on this day to begin the process of moving forward on our human right to housing.

We are thrilled that our new Mayor Olivia Chow has assured Toronto residents there will be an opportunity for tenants' voices to be heard, at Toronto City Hall, with the enactment of "Toronto's Renters Action Committee". *[Terms of Reference Attached in Appendix A.]* However, we are dismayed to learn that the much-anticipated "Toronto's Renters Action Committee" will not be established today.

We do hope this is simply an oversight.

As we all know, time is of the essence for the millions of residents who call Toronto home. The lack of affordable homes, dwindling housing supply, and lax property standards enforcement necessitates immediate, all-hands-on-board solutions. Such inclusiveness will ensure two million tenants' voices are heard and respected at City Hall; and that tenants are engaged at all levels of our democratic decision-making tables.

It is imperative we begin the process of building an all-inclusive, diverse, solutions-focused Toronto's Renters Action Committee today.

RECOMMENDATIONS

[1] The Striking Committee recommend to City Council to immediately establish Toronto's Renters Issues Committee with the Terms of Reference Attached in Appendix A.

[2] The Striking Committee recommend to City Council that the Toronto's Renters Issues Committee report directly to both the Planning & Housing Committee - and - to the Executive Committee with the Terms of Reference Attached in Appendix A.

Our mutual goal for safe, healthy housing that is affordable and accessible for every single Toronto resident is within our reach. We are confident that together, we will make positive, lasting changes.

Thank you kindly for your consideration,

Helen Chilas | Federation of Metro Tenants' Association | Board Member
Ron Anicich | Federation of Metro Tenants' Association | Board Member

PRESS RELEASE:

Posted by Team Olivia Chow on April 25, 2023 ¹

OLIVIA CHOW ANNOUNCES SECURE AFFORDABLE HOMES PLAN FOR RENTERS

TORONTO – Olivia Chow has a bold plan to give the nearly 50% of Torontonians who rent their homes, more power, more security and more affordable options.

Chow’s plan to save affordable housing and give renters more power:

- **Create the *Secure Affordable Homes Fund***
- **Secure affordable homes**
- **Establish the Toronto Renters Action Committee**

Chow’s plan to protect renters is the first piece of her progressive and ambitious plan to make housing more affordable. Other pieces of her housing plan will touch on issues relating to zoning, affordable housing, housing supply and more.

Toronto’s Renters Action Committee

Olivia is committed to elevating and incorporating the voice of renters – nearly half of residents – into City decisions. Renters deserve a seat at the table.

That’s why as mayor Olivia will establish Toronto’s Renters Action Committee composed of renters, housing providers, advocates, councillors and the mayor. The Renters Action Committee will work to improve fairness for renters, protect tenant rights, prevent illegitimate evictions and homelessness, address the affordable rental housing shortage, and improve existing city programs and services for renters.

This committee will report to the Planning and Housing Committee and will be a space where renters can finally be heard, put new ideas directly onto the City’s agenda, improve existing city programs and services, and hold the City accountable.

The immediate tasks of the Renters Action Committee will include:

- Developing a strong City of Toronto Anti-Renovictions Bylaw that will leverage the City’s authorities to deter renovictions.
- Work to launch an advocacy campaign to preserve affordability for renters by urging the Ontario government to institute real rent control for all rental units, that’s tied to the unit and not just the tenant.
- Reviewing existing City policies and programs related to renters, and holding the City accountable on its commitments to renters.

¹ https://www.oliviachow.ca/olivia_chow_announces_secure_affordable_homes_plan_for_renters