

Black Community Housing Advisory Table (BCHAT)



December 17, 2024

City Clerk
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

Re: CC24.1 - Ombudsman Toronto Report - An Investigation into the City's Decision to Stop Allowing Refugee Claimants into Base Shelter System Beds

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

Blackhousing.ca

Founded: 2021

About: We are a coalition of social service and housing providers, developers, planning experts, government and community leaders who aim to eliminate housing inequity for Black residents across the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA).

Vision: To eliminate housing inequities and support access to improved outcomes for Black residents.

Mission: BCHAT's mission is to support the development of permanent housing solutions for Black residents in the GTHA through the creation of a more equitable, culturally appropriate, and well-funded Black housing sector.

On behalf of the Black Community Housing Advisory Table (BCHAT), we are writing to convey our strong encouragement for City Council to ensure City staff thoroughly assess and conduct the implementation of the recommendations in the Ombudsman's report *An Investigation into the [City's Decision to Stop Allowing Refugee Claimants into Base Shelter System Beds](#)*.

We are concerned by the City Manager's statements in his November 27th letter that he "does not agree with the findings" and will not implement the recommendations without directions from council. The response is publicly noted as the first time in the history of the Ombudsman's office that the Toronto Public Service has rejected the Ombudsman's findings and recommendations in their entirety. Building with the progress already underway or completed by implementing the Ombudsman's recommendations are critical steps to strengthen service alignment with the City's Housing Charter, Access TO, and Toronto Shelter Standards. We are confident that this action will help rebuild trust and nurture stronger partnerships with community organizations and residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that Toronto is a city where all residents can thrive.

Sincerely,

BCHAT Steering Committee Members
Cheryll Case
Founder and Executive Director
CP Planning

Craig Wellington
Executive Director
Black Opportunity Fund

Diane Walters
Executive Director
Margarets Housing and Community
Support Services