From:	Jana Ray
To:	Clerk; Councillor Thompson; Councillor Matlow; Councillor Myers; Councillor Kandavel; Councillor Nunziata;
	Councillor Bradford; Planning and Housing; Councillor Perks
Cc:	nodemovictionsontario@gmail.com; Laura Tamblyn Watts; Nathaniel Welch
Subject:	[External Sender] Urgent Action Needed to Address Senior Displacement Due to Demovictions
Date:	April 5, 2024 9:35:23 AM

Dear Mayor Chow and Toronto City Council,

CanAge, Canada's National Seniors Advocacy Organization, is writing to express our deep concern regarding the growing number of demovictions in Toronto and the devastating impact they have on vulnerable seniors.

The demolition of existing affordable housing and long-term care facilities, coupled with inadequate relocation support for displaced tenants, creates a significant and unacceptable risk to seniors' well-being.

CanAge's VOICES framework specifically identifies the need for:

Housing Innovation for Seniors (Recommendation #94): Supporting solutions that allow seniors to age in place, such as co-housing, Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), and affordable senior housing models.

Addressing Homelessness or Risk of Homelessness (Recommendation #95): Developing programs with accessible transitional and shelter options for at-risk seniors facing homelessness.

We implore the City of Toronto to act swiftly to:

Strengthen the Tenant Relocation & Assistance Plan (TRAP): Ensure it provides genuinely adequate temporary housing for displaced seniors.

Improve communication with tenants: Provide clear and accessible information on the demovictions process and available support, particularly for those with cognitive decline.

Explore alternative development strategies: Prioritize the preservation of existing affordable housing, potentially in collaboration with innovative aging-in-place models.

CanAge stands ready to collaborate with other advocates like the passionate volunteer team at No Demovictions, and the City of Toronto to develop meaningful and responsive solutions that safeguard seniors' housing security and well-being. We urge you to prioritize this critical issue and take decisive action now to protect our most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Jana Ray, COO

CanAge

CC: Laura Tamblyn Watts, CEO Nathan Welch, Policy Lead (best ways to reach me, in order)

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Canada's National Seniors Advocacy Organization