

Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association
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June 12, 2024

Planning and Housing Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Subject: Endorsement of the City of Toronto's Community Housing Sector Modernization & Growth Strategy

Dear Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

The Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) supports the proposed Community Housing Sector Modernization & Growth Strategy by the City of Toronto. This strategy represents a crucial step in meeting the housing needs of Torontonians, and we commend the City for its continued leadership on this issue.

The strategy's scope is comprehensive and addresses crucial areas that need immediate attention, with a focus on preserving, expanding, and modernizing community housing stock. We appreciate the City's efforts in leveraging tax dollars to benefit the community, especially those most in need of affordable housing solutions. By prioritizing partnerships with key stakeholders, including governmental bodies, financial institutions, and community housing providers, the City demonstrates a collaborative approach essential for progress.

We acknowledge the challenges inherent in housing development; moving a project from start to completion takes time. However, community housing development is a worthy investment for its long-term benefits, which include economic productivity. For example, we know based on the Canadian Housing Renewal Association's economic study that bringing the percentage of community housing in line with the OECD average by 2030 would contribute up to \$50.3 billion to Ontario's GDP.



As a leader in the community housing sector representing close to 700 non-profit housing providers across Ontario, ONPHA is prepared to offer our full support to the City of Toronto in implementing this strategy by working with key stakeholders and partners. We are committed to building the capacity of the community housing sector and providing guidance to housing providers as they navigate forward.

Furthermore, we believe this strategy will not only address Toronto's immediate housing needs but also significantly contribute to achieving provincial housing targets. By aligning with provincial objectives, the City demonstrates its commitment to achieving broader housing goals collaboratively.

In conclusion, we urge the Planning and Housing Committee to consider this strategy thoughtfully. We appreciate the Committee's dedication to addressing the housing crisis and trust that together, we can make significant strides towards ensuring safe and affordable housing for all.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Marlene Coffey, MA, MAES, MCIP, RPP
Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association

To learn more about ONPHA, visit www.onpha.on.ca.