

Topic: Submission to the City of Toronto Planning and Housing Committee

Date: September 26, 2024

Submitter: Michelle Bilek, on behalf of the Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network and the Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness

Agenda Items: 15.5 - 2023-2024 Annual Progress Update Report - HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan and Housing Action Plan (2022-2026)

And

15.6 - Increasing the City's Supply of Accessible Affordable Housing

Council Committee,

The Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network CLELN [CLELN - Home](#) and the Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness OAEH [Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness - Home \(oaeH.ca\)](#) are writing in support of the Housing Secretariats reports to address the ongoing funding shortfalls from the provincial and federal governments (before and election/s announced) to address the needed funding from the province and federal government to move forward on its objectives to support people into affordable, accessible and appropriate housing and out of experiencing homelessness and inadequate living conditions.

Our organizations have been on the forefront of listening to lived experts and identifying meaningful and long-term solutions to address housing precarity and homelessness. There is no doubt that the City of Toronto, like many other urban centres, is seeing some of the most egregious human rights and housing rights violations in this country, but at the same time, with the establishment of the Housing Secretariat, Toronto has been a leading voice in Canada and implementing the most innovative approaches to solution making. We continue to look to Toronto and the work of the Housing Secretariat to provide actionable solutions from our most highly populated and diverse urban centre, in order to prove that ending homelessness, and ensuring safe, affordable and accessible housing options for community members is possible.

The city needs to urgently support the delivery of the thousands of new rent-controlled homes, also ensuring that people can access current rental housing stock and remain housed by securing the funding for the housing benefit, and also deliver on ensuring that new, existing and acquired housing is universally designed.

We will continue to support the Housing Secretariats request to City Council to re-iterate and pressure its request to the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to ensure Toronto's promised funding to move community members out of homelessness into permanent housing and relieve pressure on the City's emergency shelter system is a priority. At the same time, we will also advocate to secure funding to review current Toronto affordable stock and build accessibility standards throughout Toronto's housing inventory, including new and acquired units.

Finally, we are happy to provide the City and Housing Secretariate with updates on pan-Canadian approaches to affordable and appropriate housing whether that be bricks and mortar or support services.

Best regards,

Michelle Bilek, Member and Founder

Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network and the Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness