



November 28, 2024

Dear Councillors of the Planning and Housing Committee,

**Re: Agenda item PH                      Affordable Home Ownership Review**

Sent by email [phc@toronto.ca](mailto:phc@toronto.ca)

I am writing as the President and CEO of WoodGreen Community Services. We are Toronto's largest non-municipal affordable housing provider, offering housing services and supports to seniors, newcomers, youth, individuals with disabilities and people with a long history of homelessness.

After years of under-investment in affordable rental housing, purpose-built rentals and co-op housing, we applaud the significant attention the City and other levels of government have placed on increasing supply of these important elements of the housing continuum.

We are however, concerned that the City of Toronto has not yet been successful in realizing the relatively modest annual target set out in its Housing Action Plan for 400 affordable homeownership units.

Affordable ownership housing is a critical option in a functioning affordable housing continuum. Affordable ownership housing is an antidote to the risk of gridlock created if households are unable to make the move from affordable or market rental to market ownership. Having this component in our housing systems provides a stepping stone for households to progress and in many cases be able to eventually access market ownership. This, in turn, creates a positive ripple impact on the supply of rental and affordable rental stock, enabling organizations like ours to achieve greater impact.

The City's investment in the affordable ownership program also reflects its values of inclusion and fairness, by providing pathways in particular for Black, Indigenous and other racialized groups who have historically encountered barriers to accessing homeownership.

We have examined the city's report on the Review of Toronto's Affordable Home Ownership Programs. We are in wholehearted support of the overall direction and recommendations in the report for this long-awaited review of Toronto's affordable home ownership programs.

We urge the Planning and Housing Committee to adopt this item and move the report on the City Council expeditiously.

Sincerely yours,

Anne Babcock  
President & CEO