



**MORE NEIGHBOURS
TORONTO**

Dear Members of the Planning & Housing Committee,

RE: PH17.7 - Relaunch of the Home Ownership Assistance Program to Support New Non-Profit Affordable and Attainable Home Ownership Housing

About More Neighbours Toronto

[More Neighbours Toronto](#) is a volunteer-only organization of housing advocates that believe in building more multi-family homes of all kinds for those who dream of building their lives in Toronto. We advocate for reforms to increase our city's ability to build more homes in every neighbourhood. We are a big-tent organization with members across the political spectrum who are committed to counterbalancing the anti-housing agenda that has dominated Toronto's politics, created an affordability crisis, and cost burdened a new generation of aspiring residents. We are firmly committed to the principle that housing is a human right and believe Toronto should be inclusive and welcoming to all.

Position

More Neighbours Toronto supports the proposed updates to the Home Ownership Assistance Program (HOAP), as presented in the staff report. These updates aim to address critical housing challenges for vulnerable residents and the rising costs that are pushing homeownership beyond the reach of middle-income households, including communities that have long faced systemic inequities.

As the program review highlights, challenges many groups have faced transitioning from the rental to the ownership space have been compounded by the broader affordability crisis. This underscores the urgent need for interventions to ensure that all residents have access to affordable homeownership opportunities.

We support the key recommendations outlined in the report, which are designed to enhance the reach and effectiveness of HOAP. The proposed expansion of eligibility to include a new "attainable" tier for households with incomes above current "affordable" thresholds is a positive step in making homeownership more accessible to a broader range of residents. In addition, increasing the City's financial contributions, including deferrals of development charges and waivers of fees, will provide essential support to the non-profit and private-sector partnerships focused on creating new affordable housing in Toronto.

Furthermore, the recommendation to prioritize approved projects under the Priority Development Review Stream will expedite the approval process, ensuring that these vital housing initiatives are able to move forward without unnecessary delays.

The approach outlined in this report will not only help address the immediate challenges facing Toronto's housing market, but also contribute to the broader goal of creating complete, inclusive communities.

More Neighbours Toronto supports the proposed updates to HOAP and encourages their swift implementation to help build more equitable and sustainable housing options for all Toronto residents.

Regards,
Damien Moule,
More Neighbours Toronto