



**DISABILITY JUSTICE  
NETWORK** of ONTARIO

**Subject: Toronto & NORCs — Moving Towards Dignity in Life and Just Care**

8 April 2025

Dear Chair Bravo and Councillors,

The Disability Justice Network of Ontario wishes to express our support for the continued development of Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities in the City of Toronto. We are strongly committed to ensuring that seniors—as with all of our community members—are able to thrive and age in their communities with dignity and without being displaced.

We would, however, note the need for additional support from the City to coincide with this position:

- Seniors must continue to be centered in the development of NORCs—as those most impacted, must lead.
- Seniors also deserve just care within NORCs. We would encourage the City to support models of home care within NORCs that prioritize cooperative and nonprofit models of care work centered in communities rather than the atomized and profit-driven models that undermine the very principles of NORCs. NORCs envision communities led by seniors and our care systems must also be accountable and part of that work.
- Seniors also need to be able to resist landlords and other financial forces that could disrupt the NORC model. Support for longer term policy objectives at the Provincial level—like meaningful, full rent control—continues to be of importance here, as does continued support for wider city infrastructure like co-operative housing and RGI-supported housing.

Across Canada, most people have indicated that they prefer to age in place, and models like NORCs are a means to move this work forward. This model stands in stark contrast to the model of care and aging presented elsewhere in society—of seniors being institutionalized, removed from family and community connections, and severed from public life.

In a time where such institutions have long failed seniors and all disabled people—particularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic—NORCs are a better, more just way forward. The existing alternative to NORCs are fundamentally counter to any idea of disability justice and to the long movement towards de-institutionalization in this Province, highlighting the need for full, unwavering support from the City.



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The Disability Justice Network of Ontario is an organization devoted to creating a world where disabled people are free to be—free to thrive and foster community with the political and social agency to hold the powerful to account. And this is true for disabled seniors as much as it is for any part of our communities.

We would urge the City to continue to reflect on ways to entrench the NORC model in the city's planning. Moreover, it would be essential to also look at the lessons and principles of NORCs to ask wider questions about how we plan and design our city. Can we build from these principles to create a city where Just Care is centered throughout the course of our lives? Can we resist institutionalization and violence towards seniors and all disabled people in our communities in all areas of our lives?

NORCs help us reimagine what is possible for our neighborhoods and communities. We can only hope this model continues to inspire you to act and build a better Toronto for all.

With sincerest respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Evoy".

Brad Evoy,

**Executive Director, Disability Justice Network of Ontario**

Co-Chair, Accessible Housing Network

Co-Director, Towards Just Care Project