

March 13, 2025

Letter from the Chair and Vice Chair, Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Dear Mayor Chow and the Members of the Executive Committee,

I am writing in support of the recommended amendments to the Housing Rights Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference.

In alignment with the City's commitment to furthering the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, as affirmed in the Toronto Housing Charter, the Vice-Chair and I support the formalization of Working Groups as it enables key engagement functions between Working Groups and City employees, community organizations, and rights holders. This change reflects input we have received from HRAC members.

Working Groups enable trauma-informed, in-depth consultations on housing rights issues which may not be otherwise possible during official Housing Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC) meetings, (which are governed by the [Simplified Rules of Procedure for Advisory Bodies](#)).

Working Groups also play an essential role in increasing HRAC's capacity to fulfill two key components of our mandate to provide advice to City Council:

- a) on policies, programs and actions that the City can implement to advance its commitment to furthering the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Toronto based on housing and human rights expertise, lived experiences of housing precarity, discrimination and homelessness, and academic research and learnings from other jurisdictions;
- b) to support the City's engagement with Indigenous, Black and other equity-deserving communities, including those with living/lived experiences and using an intersectional equity approach, in order to help identify systemic barriers that prevent them from accessing and maintaining adequate housing, and to recommend actions to remove such barriers.

I am encouraged to observe how the formalization of Working Groups may bring HRAC in closer alignment with applying a human rights-based approach (centred on the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and legality) to its work.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McIsaac
Chair, Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Ann-Marie Moulton,
Vice Chair, Housing Rights Advisory Committee