



**City of Toronto
Executive Committee**

November 3rd, 2025

RE: Item 2025.EX27.1, Impacts of Provincial Legislation that Weakens Rental Protections

Dear Mayor Chow and Executive Committee Members,

The 519, Canada's largest 2SLGBTQ+ organization, fully supports efforts to challenge the Province of Ontario's Bill 60. We share Mayor Chow's concerns about Bill 60's impact on tenants and renters, and wholeheartedly support her motion, including exploring legal options to challenge Bill 60 and protect those most impacted by our current housing crisis.

As a proud City of Toronto Agency and community centre, The 519 has advocated for equitable access to homelessness services and supports for decades: supporting community consultations related to the experiences of 2SLGBTQ+ people in shelters and housing in 2002, 2022 and 2025; offering 2SLGBTQ+ inclusion training to shelter and housing providers for over 20 years; and providing housing supports to community in various forms over the last 50 years.

2SLGBTQ+ people are disproportionately overrepresented in experiences of homelessness and housing precarity in Toronto. They are more likely to enter homelessness at younger ages; more likely to experience chronic homelessness; have reported higher rates of conflict and/or abuse by a parent/guardian; are twice as likely to report mental health issues as a reason for housing loss; and have higher rates of acute health service interaction (e.g. ER visits, hospital stays and substance use consumption and treatment sites), as compared to non-2SLGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessnessⁱ.

2SLGBTQ+ people face discrimination in shelters, supportive housing, social housing, and amongst landlords, neighbours and the larger community. In one cross-Canada survey, 69% of gender-diverse people reported being unable to find or maintain housing due to affordability issues; 41% admitted to cutting back on basic necessities in order to make ends meet; 43% reported experiencing discrimination from their landlords due to their gender identity,ⁱⁱ and almost 25% experienced mistreatment, threats and assault from other tenants and community members. Participants named discrimination and exclusion as key contributing factors to homelessness and housing precarity in their livesⁱⁱⁱ, and the current housing affordability crisis exacerbates an already urgent situation. This constant state of fear also results in inadequate living conditions. Trans tenants have reported that they do not address key maintenance issues (e.g. mold, broken structures) with their landlords due to fear that doing so might reveal their trans identity and lead to eviction^{iv}. Housing is a crucial social determinant of health, and long-term housing instability entrenches individuals in experiences of systemic marginalization and exclusion; poverty and isolation.

The housing vulnerability that 2SLGBTQ+ people and others face is deeply affected by stagnant social assistance rates, the loosening or removal of key tenant protections, and the continued failures of conflict resolution mechanisms like the Landlord and Tenant Board to protect tenants. **Bill 60 threatens to deepen these cuts and leave low-income renters and tenants without rights or recourse.**

Canada must move towards an internationally-recognized Right to Housing approach. Federal and municipal governments have already recognized the urgency of our affordable housing crisis and the need for a rights-based approach through the development of the Federal Housing Advocate and Ombudsman Toronto's Housing Unit.

We urge the Provincial Government, to demonstrate meaningful action towards addressing the needs of low-income renters by enacting greater tenant protections, fixing the Landlord and Tenant Board, increasing funding for tenant legal education and services, reinstating rent and vacancy control, and creating a rights-based provincial housing body to ensure accountability.

All levels of government must work together towards progressive realization of our right to housing by protecting renters from rent hikes, renovations and bad faith landlords, while also investing in social, supportive and deeply affordable housing.

Sincerely,



Martha Singh Jennings
Director, Housing Advocacy and Support Services
The 519

ⁱ [Identifying 2SLGBTQ+ individuals experiencing homelessness using Point-in-Time counts: Evidence from the 2021 Toronto Street Needs Assessment survey | PLOS ONE](#)
[2SLGBTQ+ Peoples' Experiences of Homelessness in Toronto: Analysis of the 2021 Street Needs Assessment Survey: City of Toronto.](#)

ⁱⁱ Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network. (n.d.). Research Brief: Preliminary Portrait of Housing Need & Barriers amongst Gender-Diverse Persons. (p. 12). <https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/Research-Brief-on-Housing-Need-Homelessness-amongst-Gender-Diverse-Persons.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network. (n.d.). Research Brief: Preliminary Portrait of Housing Need & Barriers amongst Gender-Diverse Persons. (p. 14). <https://womenshomelessness.ca/wp-content/uploads/Research-Brief-on-Housing-Need-Homelessness-amongst-Gender-Diverse-Persons.pdf>

^{iv} James, J., Bauer, G., Peck, R., Brennan, D., & Nussbaum, N. (2018). Transforming Justice: Legal Problems Facing Trans People in Ontario. HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (p. 13). <https://www.halco.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/TransFJ-Report2018Sept-EN.pdf>