

Maintaining Housing Working Group Meeting 3 – May 9, 2025

HRAC Members

Elizabeth McIsaac (Interim Working Group Chair)
Joy Connelly
Nicole Alexander
Harmy Mendoza
Annie Hodgins

City Staff

Aisha Silim
Joanna Hazelden
Marla Friebe
Laura Boyko
Anthony De Francesca
Caroline Bucksbaum

Housing Secretariat Support

Meredith Kratzmann
Asha Sivarajah

The meeting of the Housing Rights Advisory Committee's Maintaining Housing Working Group started at 10:00am.

Notes

1. Selection of New Chair

- The Working Group Chair recently started their leave from their place of employment and shared they will be stepping back as Chair of this Working Group, but will remain as a member of the Working Group and HRAC.
- Subsequently, this Working Group selected Annie Hodgins as the new Chair of the Maintaining Housing Working Group.

2. Key Priorities & Planning

- Discussed the importance of disaggregated data collection to identify systemic barriers to accessing and maintaining housing. This includes:
 - Data on who is being evicted, and why;
 - Whether the resources directed towards the Eviction Prevention in the Community (EPIC) program are adequate;
 - How rights holders are meaning engaged in key decisions which affect their housing stability.

3. Consultation on Multi-Tenant Home Tenant Supports

- **Overview:**
 - In alignment with direction from Council for staff to consult with HRAC on programs, resources and supports for Multi-Tenant Home (MTH) tenants ([PH10.2](#)) and HRAC's Key Priorities Framework, staff from the Housing Secretariat, Municipal Licensing and Standards, Toronto Building, and Toronto Fire Services attended the Working Group meeting to consult on MTH tenant supports.

- Note: The Interim Working Group Chair stepped away for the consultation portion of the meeting with City Staff, with HRAC member, Saroja Ponnambalam joining to provide input and feedback.
- **Staff Presentation:**
 - Staff provided a summary guide for MTH renters, overviewing eviction prevention mechanisms, emergency social services, and legal supports for tenants.
 - Staff additionally provided an update on their work with the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR) to report on the impact of the MTH Framework on tenant displacement.
- **Working Group Discussion:**
 - **Accessibility**
 - Discussed the importance of ensuring tenant supports and materials are offered in multiple languages.
 - Emphasized the importance of regularly evaluating and refining the MTH Framework to ensure that it is adequately serving tenants.
 - Discussed that parking requirements as part of the MTH Bylaw may not speak to the lived experience of MTH tenants, many of whom may not own vehicles.
 - Discussed the important role of the Multi-Tenant Houses Renovation & Repair Program in keeping operators in the market, and the need to increase grant funding.
 - **Habitability and Security of Tenure**
 - Asked whether there are direct supports deployed in the event that an MTH is shut down due to safety concerns.
 - Staff responded that the Emergency Social Services Program, Red Cross, and EPIC would be leveraged to provide temporary accommodation and help permanently relocate displaced tenants.
 - **Disaggregated Data**
 - Discussed the importance of disaggregated data on MTH tenants to identify groups disproportionately impacted by housing precarity and potential displacement.
 - Data also plays a strong role in measuring outcomes of the MTH Framework on tenants.

4. Next Steps

- The Working Group identified disaggregated data collection (with respect to MTH tenant displacement, renovictions, demovictions, and formal/informal evictions) as a key priority in identifying where systemic barriers to maintaining housing exist.
- The Working Group requested Staff to provide its presentation on programs, resources and supports for MTH tenants to the full HRAC at its upcoming meeting and include an overview of what data the City is currently collecting with respect to the implementation of the MTH Framework.
- For the next Working Group meeting, the Group decided to invite housing caseworkers serving priority populations (women and survivors of gender-based violence, people with previous incarceration experience, people with disabilities, etc.) to overview their experiences and discuss gaps with respect to data on maintaining housing and formal/informal evictions.

Meeting ended at 12:00 pm.