

MEMBERS MOTION

Moved by: **Councillor Matlow** _____

Seconded by: **Councillor Myers** _____

Advancing Veterans Affordable & Supportive Housing – by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Jamaal Myers

Recommendations

City Council direct the Deputy City Manager, Development and Growth Services and request the CreateTO Board of Directors to direct the Chief Executive Officer, CreateTO, in consultation with other relevant agencies and divisions, to report back to Planning and Housing Committee before the end of the third quarter of 2026 on:

1. Explore opportunities to address housing needs of veterans through housing developments on City-owned land in accordance with the Toronto Builds policy framework
2. Work with the community housing sector to identify sites that can be developed as affordable and supportive housing for veterans, subject to availability of sufficient capital and operating funding;
3. Work collaboratively with the Government of Canada on exploring any available and viable sites, such as Royal Canadian Legion branches in Toronto, and dedicated capital and operating funding for a permanent affordable and supportive housing site tailored specifically to homeless veterans; and,
4. Consult with Veterans' House Canada on best practices for their Edmonton and Ottawa affordable and supportive housing sites tailored specifically to homeless veterans.

Summary

Demand for shelter space in our city continues to increase year after year. We know this is only a band aid approach, and the real solution is to create permanent supportive affordable housing for our city's most vulnerable.

On average, 4.4% of people experiencing homelessness in Canadian cities are veterans. Veterans (both Canadian Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as defined by Veterans Affairs

Canada) are more than twice as likely to experience homelessness compared to the general population.

Veterans who courageously served our nation and made great sacrifices should not be living on our city's streets. As we commemorate their service during Veterans' Week, Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day, we must also remember the actions that all three levels of government should be taking to support them. Our Veterans fulfilled their duty to us; it is our responsibility to fulfill ours to them.