

VICEREGAL PATRON

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Mary Simon, Governor General of
Canada

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City of Toronto Planning and Housing Committee
phc@toronto.ca

January 21, 2025

City of Toronto Planning Committee,

Dear Committee Members,

I understand that the City of Toronto's Planning Committee is considering recommending to City Council that they request the Province of Ontario expand on its commitment to partner with the City of Toronto to develop more supportive living homes and expand services for those that already exist.

As the largest transfer payment agency providing Ministry of Health-funded community support services (including supportive housing / assisted living services) for Ontarians with disabilities, March of Dimes Canada (MODC) has seen firsthand the need for increased investments in this sector. We fully support your recommendation.

Specifically, we support your recommendation for the province to provide a three-year allocation of \$60 million in operating funding for support services beginning in 2025, to ensure residents of over 2,000 supportive homes have access to health and social supports and enable approximately 400 new supportive homes currently under construction to open in 2025 and 2026.

People with disabilities in Canada are four times as likely than the general population to experience homelessness in their lifetime. They often are not able to access homes that have the physical aids they need and are more likely to live in unaffordable housing (Canada Human Rights Commission).

People with all different types of disabilities in Toronto and Ontario – including those experiencing addictions and mental illness - who require supportive housing services can't wait years to access the supportive housing they need, and this need is only expected to grow. As such, MODC supports this important recommendation that, if implemented, would ensure funding for support service delivery in supportive housing locations.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in further supporting your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. MacKenzie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Amanda MacKenzie
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cc. Jennifer Chan, Office of the Mayor – Jennifer.chan@toronto.ca