



DEPUTATION

To: Planning and Housing Committee.
Date: January 21, 2025.
Re: PH18.6 - Progress on Building More Supportive Homes.

The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness (TAEH) is a community-based collective impact initiative committed to ending homelessness in Toronto. Our network includes non-profit organisations that support those living with homelessness and those who are housed and who must spend a disproportionate amount of income on housing, as well as affordable and supportive housing developers, property managers, and landlords.

TAEH works directly with the City of Toronto in its mandates surrounding homelessness and maintaining and growing affordable housing stock in the city, including engagement on client support services and funding. This includes TAEH co-chairing the Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service Planning Forum with both the City of Toronto Shelter and Support Services, and the Housing Secretariat.

TAEH is also the non-Indigenous Community Advisory Board to the City of Toronto on housing and homelessness.

In relation to agenda item 18.6 - Progress on Building More Supportive Homes, TAEH applauds the increased emphasis on the importance of creating new supportive housing in Toronto in the context of the adoption of the Generational Transformation Housing Action Plan (HAP) last year by City Council and both the 2020-2030 HousingTO Action Plan and the HAP (2022-2026). For too long, supportive housing has been subsumed within affordable housing targets and not seen as a unique form of housing with its own requirements, both in terms of development costs and operational subsidies.

TAEH reiterates its position that supportive housing targets be established as an independent goal of these HAPs and recommends that the City endorse the target of 18,000 new supportive housing homes to be built in the decade 2020-2030 as set out in the [Toronto Supportive Housing Growth Plan](#) (SHGP) created by supportive housing providers in 2021. A review of available data shows how far behind Toronto currently is in achieving this target. We note that the definition of supportive housing has expanded since 2021, and while endorsing the inclusion of long-term care housing as a subset of supportive housing, recommend that existing targets for the creation of new long term care beds be seen as in addition to the targets contained within the SHGP.

As such, TAEH supports both the separation of supportive housing targets and dashboard data from those established for affordable housing in general, and that these targets themselves recognise the range of housing subsumed within the definition of supportive housing, and that separate subcategories be individually tracked. To do so, these subcategories must be distinguishable. For example, what precisely defines “wrap around social medicine” supportive housing in comparison to high supports supportive housing? In that spirit, TAEH believes that subcategories such as high, medium and low supports supportive housing, and long-term care housing, for example, be precisely defined.

Related to TAEH’s position on the need for both definitions and target tracking, we believe that the City, building on the work set out in the SHGP, should determine, in conjunction with the said HAPs, the actual demand for each subcategory of supportive housing to 2030, that needs to be built, based on engagement with supportive housing operators and agencies providing support services in Toronto.

TAEH believes that the creation of standard terms and conditions, similar to those set out in Attachment 1 to the Report for Action submitted on this agenda item for (sub)leases and related agreements for use in relation to both supportive and affordable City owned housing, and easy access to same, will facilitate nonprofit organisations determining the financial feasibility of projects at an early stage of the pre-development process.

In closing, TAEH encourages the City to continue its support and partnering with the supportive housing sector in Toronto in obtaining financing from the Affordable Housing Fund – Rapid Housing Sub-stream and other sources, as well as seeking its own funding for City initiated supportive housing development projects.

TAEH endorses the prioritisation of Indigenous and Black-led housing providers in response to RFPs for City-led projects derived from Affordable Housing Fund – Rapid Housing Sub-stream funds received by the City. TAEH also reiterates its support for title transfer to any Indigenous supportive housing providers that successfully apply for any such City-led projects as an important and substantive iteration of reconciliation as established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter G. Martin', with a stylized, flowing script.

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