



housingjustice4parkdale@gmail.com

To: Toronto and East York Community Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

November 27, 2025

To whom it may concern or not concern,

As representatives of Parkdale Housing Justice Network, we write to register our rejection of the proposed luxury rental development at 138 Dowling Avenue.

We'll shout it until our voices are hoarse: Toronto is facing a deadly housing crisis and developments like this only serve to make the crisis worse by driving up rents in our neighbourhood, in turn displacing poor and working tenants from our homes and into the street.

We are not fooled by your pseudoscientific supply-side housing policy. More market-rate housing will not save us. The housing-for-profit industry and its glassy towers are fundamentally incompatible with the types of housing and planning required to truly address this crisis.

City Councillors and Planners choose to ignore this community knowledge in the spirit of following procedure. They approve developments for fear of escalating applications to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), which, we are told, will only result in the approval of even more egregious developments. We reject these "lesser-evil" politics. We say: let these developers appeal their cases to the OLT at such a volume as to jam up the whole system.

City Planners make their recommendations regarding development applications in advance of Council meetings and Councillors openly state their intentions to vote in accordance with Planner recommendations. Why do you bother opening the floor for public comment when the vote has already been determined beforehand? The Toronto and East York Community Council is a sham, a "kangaroo court." Why should we spend our precious time deputing for you? Why should we lend any credibility to your puppet show?

We do not write this statement with the expectation of being meaningfully heard by City Councillors or Planners. We know better. Instead, we say our piece so that the record shows:

The people of Parkdale—poor people, working people, and tenants—reject the City’s undemocratic planning process and the luxury towers it continually approves. We demand tenant-led social housing that centres the needs and autonomy of the most vulnerable among us: poor and working people, elderly people, disabled people, mad people, and people who use drugs. Existing plans for supportive housing in Parkdale are insufficient in scale and spirit, and they cannot keep pace with attacks on the neighbourhood such as the conversion of rooming houses, persistent above-guideline rent increases, the exodus of long term care facilities, and the closure of our supervised consumption site. It is not enough to build a few hundred units of supportive housing here and there while thousands of luxury condo and rental units are approved left and right.

The parasitic housing-for-profit industry must be systematically dismantled. We will not stand for anything less.

Until next time,
Parkdale Housing Justice Network