

April 8, 2026

Letter from the Chair, Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Since our last meeting on February 20, 2026, I am pleased to share that our Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group and Maintaining Housing Working Group have had the opportunity to convene and consult with staff on items related to their respective key priorities. Updates on these meetings are provided later in today's agenda.

I would also like to highlight a key public policy decision which impacts access to critical health care services for people experiencing homelessness and addiction.

Provincial Defunding of Safe Consumption Sites

Since the passing of the *Community Care and Recovery Act, 2024* by the Province of Ontario, 10 supervised consumption sites have been forced to close. The Province has recently announced that it will [terminate funding](#) to the remaining seven supervised consumption sites that exist in communities that are supported by an existing Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub, effective June 13, 2026.

While the Province has announced the creation of 28 HART Hubs to provide people with critical healthcare, housing, and support services, it explicitly excludes supervised consumption services. This means that the immediate and acute needs of people at high risk of overdose will not be met through the HART Hubs.

Canadian and international evidence overwhelmingly demonstrates that supervised consumption services save lives, connect people to critical social services, and are pathways to treatment. From the opening of supervised consumption sites in 2017 to 2025, over [50,000 overdoses](#) have been reversed in Canada.

The toxic drug supply has disproportionate impacts on people experiencing homelessness. Since 2021, [1 in 5 opioid-related deaths](#) in Ontario occurred among people experiencing homelessness. The closures will further endanger Indigenous people who face [higher rates of overdose deaths](#) and are overrepresented among those experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

The number of non-fatal opioid overdose calls attended by Toronto Paramedic Services in February 2026 was more than double compared to the previous year. The decision to criminalize addiction and homelessness through Bill 6¹ and Bill 10², while simultaneously defunding supervised consumption services threatens the right to life for people who are suffering from addiction. Defunding this critical pathway to treatment and housing stability is a retrogressive measure which undermines Canada's commitment to progressively realize the right to adequate housing.

While HRAC is not mandated to provide advice on provincial matters, as a human rights body it is critical that we are aware of the systemic issues that impact the City of Toronto's ability to progressively realize the right to adequate housing for people in Toronto experiencing homelessness and addiction.

Submitted by Elizabeth McIsaac, Chair, Housing Rights Advisory Committee, April 8, 2026

¹ *Safer Municipalities Act*, 2025, S.O. 2025, c. 5 - Bill 6

² *Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act*, 2025, S.O. 2025, c. 6 - Bill 10