

May 14, 2026

Housing Rights Advisory Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Housing Rights Advisory Committee Members:

Re: Housing Rights Advisory Committee – First Term Review and Key Priorities Going Forward

The Housing Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC) was established in 2023 with a mandate to provide advice on policies, programs and actions that advance the City's commitment to further the progressive realization of the human right to adequate housing. The Committee is composed of 12 members, one from City Council and 11 appointed from the public. Public members include people with lived or living experience of housing precarity and/or homelessness, and representatives of community organizations with expertise on housing and human rights.

HRAC first met as a committee on March 18, 2024. Given the scope of our mandate, we needed to prioritize our limited time by focusing on key issues that impact people's right to adequate housing in Toronto. At our September 2024 meeting, HRAC adopted a Priorities Framework and formed Working Groups ([HS3.1](#)) to focus on critical points in a housing journey: supporting people who are unhoused; improving pathways to housing; and supporting people to maintain their housing (i.e. preventing people from entering or re-entering homelessness). HRAC initially considered a Working Group on the 'right' supply of housing, but instead chose to embed this priority across the following three Working Groups:

1. Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group
2. Improving Access to Housing Working Group
3. Maintaining Housing Working Group

In March 2026, Council amended HRAC's Terms of Reference ([EX21.16](#)) to formalize Working Groups and ensure they could invite City staff, community partners, and members of the public to their meetings to provide input and feedback. Each Working Group is composed of HRAC members with relevant interests and subject matter expertise. Each group selected a Chair to convene the group and guide its discussions.

Since its formation, HRAC has met a total of 10 times. Cumulatively, the three Working Groups have met more than 20 times. HRAC and its Working Groups have heard presentations from a wide range of community organizations and advocates on systemic barriers to housing. HRAC submitted two letters to the federal and provincial governments to advocate on issues outside municipal jurisdiction that impact people's right to adequate housing in Toronto.

Through its Working Groups and formal meetings, the Committee has engaged with City staff on critical programs, policies, and issues that impact people's right to adequate housing in Toronto, including:

- Shelter Safety Action Plan
- Rental Renovation License By-Law Implementation
- Multi-Tenant Housing Framework Implementation

- Integration of the Affordable Rental Program onto MyAccessstoHousingTO (MATHTO)
- Rental Replacement Policy: Vulnerable Tenants Project
- Access to Shelter Framework
- Governance Framework for the Service User Advisory Group

HRAC also provided input and feedback to City staff with the goal of improving housing outcomes for people, for example: by advocating for improved system navigation for people experiencing homelessness; providing recommendations for the use of maximum available resources in the City's budget; and providing feedback around monitoring human rights-based outcomes advanced by critical programs, including the Interdepartmental Protocol on Encampments (IDP).

As a mechanism for implementing the right to adequate housing in Toronto, HRAC must be transparent and accountable. We should consider our successes and challenges to date, and support planning for a possible second term, should Council choose to re-strike this Committee.

To support open discussion, dialogue and feedback, I am asking the Chair of each Working Group to provide a verbal presentation, guided by the following questions. This is also an opportunity for members of the public and rights holders, including Indigenous, Black and other equity-deserving communities, and people with lived experience of housing precarity, and/or homelessness, to provide their input on these questions:

1. Did the priorities identified in HRAC's initial [Priorities Framework](#) help to advance HRAC's [mandate](#)?
2. If Council re-strikes HRAC in the next term, what should its key priorities be going forward?
3. Considering HRAC's mandate, what successes and achievements have HRAC and/or its Working Groups had in its first term?
4. What key challenges did the Committee face in meeting its mandate and in allowing it to apply a human rights-based approach?
5. What have been the challenges, opportunities and learnings related to engaging with people with lived/living experience of housing precarity and/or homelessness, and Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving communities?

Submitted by Elizabeth McIsaac, Chair, Housing Rights Advisory Committee