

The Housing Rights Advisory Committee's first term: Laying a foundation for future progress

June 18, 2026

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From the Chair

As the first term of the Housing Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC) comes to a close, we have been reflecting on what we have been able to accomplish, and what lies ahead.

The City of Toronto established HRAC in late 2023, following its recognition of the human right to adequate housing in 2020 in the Toronto Housing Charter and Housing TO 2020-2030 Action Plan. By establishing HRAC, the City took an important step towards holding itself accountable for delivering on this right.

During this inaugural term, it was apparent that HRAC is filling a need – a need that comes from the City, and a need that comes from the public – for a mechanism that can help drive progress on the right to housing in Toronto. HRAC engaged with issues raised by City staff, Council members, civil society groups and advocates, members of the general public, and people with lived experience of precarious housing and homelessness.

Despite its short term of two-and-a-half years, HRAC had an impact. City staff consulted with HRAC and we made recommendations on policies and on taking a human rights-based approach to: shelter safety and system navigation, responding to encampments, protecting tenants from displacement, access to affordable housing, and accountability and monitoring mechanisms. We strove to be helpful, not onerous, by providing a human rights framework to guide the City's work on housing and its approach to services.

There's more work to do. The next term, should Council re-strike this Committee, can start with the priorities already identified by our Working Groups and communities: centring rights holders, meeting the needs of unsheltered and unhoused people, making housing affordable, safe and secure, and coordinating data and systems, among others.

HRAC should embody a human rights-based approach in its structure and processes. It should be designed to operate according to human rights principles, including in its relationship to the public and lived experts. A consideration of the Committee's structure and function should be a priority for the next term.

The City of Toronto has shown leadership by laying a foundation to implement the right to adequate housing. As a part of this foundation, HRAC is nascent, but has already shown potential for impact. With the benefit of four full years, the next Committee can broaden and deepen its impact for Torontonians.

I have been honoured to chair this first iteration of HRAC. As the City goes forward, I urge the next Mayor and Council to keep a common vision in mind: a Toronto where everyone has a home, and a city that is equipped to make that a reality.



Elizabeth McIsaac
Chair, Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Section 1: Advancing HRAC priorities

Given the scope of HRAC's mandate and its limited term length, the Committee adopted a Key Priorities Framework ([HS3.1](#)) to identify areas of focus:

- Supporting people who are unhoused;
- Improving pathways to housing;
- Supporting people to maintain their housing (i.e. preventing people from entering or re-entering homelessness); and
- Increasing the right supply.

HRAC formed Working Groups ([HS3.1](#), [EX21.16](#)) to enable more fulsome discussions that could take place outside of the formal Committee meeting structure. The Committee 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

Since its formation, HRAC has met a total of 12 times. Cumulatively, its three Working Groups have met more than 20 times. Through its Working Groups and formal meetings, HRAC members have consulted with City staff more than 15 times on housing-related programs, policies, and services, either by request from staff or by invitation from the Committee. These consultations align with HRAC's mandate to provide advice to City Council on implementing the right to adequate housing in Toronto.

The Committee engaged with community organizations and housing rights advocates representing several key sectors, including the accessibility, homelessness, and gender-based violence sectors. These engagements deepened HRAC's understanding of housing access and precarity for a diverse range of rights holders and advanced the Committee's mandate of supporting the City's engagement with equity-deserving communities to help identify systemic barriers to housing.

Through consultations with City staff, engagements with community organizations, the adoption of motions, and efforts to support the City's intergovernmental advocacy, HRAC worked to further these priority areas:

1. Improving shelter safety and system navigation for shelter service users

a) Shelter Safety Action Plan

HRAC's Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group provided feedback and recommendations on the City's [Shelter Safety Action Plan](#) on two occasions. Our

recommendations focused on ensuring service restrictions are guided by a human rights-based approach and that shelter staff receive training on applying a trauma-informed and human rights-based approach in their work with clients.

b) Pathways from Homelessness to Housing Tool

HRAC's Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group identified a need to improve system navigation supports for people experiencing homelessness. It [advocated](#) for and supported an amendment to a Council direction ([EC23.6](#)) for staff to create a resource that maps the pathways from homelessness to housing through the services offered by the City and community organizations. Staff subsequently consulted with the Working Group ([HS7.5](#), [HS9.5](#)) on a draft Pathways to Housing Tool to support frontline staff and service users with system navigation. The tool is intended to be finalized and rolled out to service users and frontline workers in 2026.

c) Governance framework for the City's Service User Advisory Group (SUAG)

Working Group members consulted with City staff ([HS10.5](#)) on the City's formation of a new Service User Advisory Group (SUAG) and provided feedback to ensure that its governance structure is human-rights informed and supports strong access-to-justice mechanisms for shelter service users.

2. Advocating for a human rights-based response to encampments

a) Assessing changes to the Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments (IDP)

In response to a Council decision ([MM34.4](#)) to amend the City's Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments (IDP), HRAC adopted a motion to the Executive Committee ([EX28.21](#)), recommending that any changes to the IDP be assessed for compliance with the City's commitment to progressively realize the right to adequate housing, as affirmed through the Toronto Housing Charter.

b) Understanding the impact of the Enhanced Outreach Model

Through [HS7.5](#), Working Group members engaged with staff to better understand what human rights-based outcomes have been advanced through the City's Enhanced Outreach Model, which is part of the City's broader Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments (IDP). The Working Group recommended that staff translate qualitative and quantitative data on the outcomes advanced by the IDP to demonstrate how it serves as a more successful and human rights-informed way to respond to encampments (compared to enforcement or displacement).

c) Advocating for the rights of people experiencing homelessness

The Committee passed a motion ([HS4.7](#)) expressing its opposition to the Premier of Ontario's proposal to invoke the notwithstanding clause to allow municipalities in Ontario override the Charter rights of people experiencing homelessness by "clearing" encampments.

3. Improving and advocating for supports to protect tenants from displacement

a) Multi-Tenant Houses Framework implementation

The Maintaining Housing Working Group engaged ([HS6.8](#)) with City staff on the implementation of the Multi-Tenant Houses Framework and advocated for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Framework to ensure that tenants are not unintentionally displaced.

b) Rental Replacement and Demolition Policy for vulnerable tenants

Working Group members provided feedback ([HS8.6](#)) to staff on the City's Rental Replacement and Demolition Policies for vulnerable tenants. Feedback was considered within a Staff Report to City Council ([PH27.9](#)). As a result of the feedback, additional stakeholder engagement was [conducted](#) with women and gender-based violence organizations.

4. Supporting increased and equitable access to affordable housing opportunities

a) Integrating affordable rental units into the City's online system

Staff consulted with HRAC's Improving Access to Housing Working Group and the broader Committee on several occasions ([HS6.7](#), [HS7.7](#), [HS8.3](#), [HS9.6](#)), to receive feedback on the City's integration of affordable rental units into its online portal, MyAccessToHousingTO (MATHTO). Feedback provided by the Committee was considered within the City's Staff Report to City Council ([PH29.5](#)).

b) Advocating for access to deeply affordable housing

Through ([HS8.2](#)), the Chair of HRAC submitted a letter to the provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, supporting the City's advocacy and concerns ([EX26.13](#)) over funding cuts to the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) for 2026 and its impact on the number of people able to leave the shelter system and move into permanent housing.

5. Advancing accountability mechanisms and human rights-based monitoring frameworks

a) Access to Shelter Framework

HRAC Working Group members engaged with staff on its draft Access to Shelter Framework, ([HS8.4](#)) in response to City Council direction ([CC28.2](#)) and in alignment with findings and recommendations from the Deputy Ombudsman, Housing's report: [An Investigation into the City's Decision to Stop Allowing Refugee Claimants into Base Shelter System Beds](#). Feedback provided by the Working Group was considered within the City's Staff Report to Council ([EC25.9](#)) and helped shape the Framework's equity and human rights-based approach.

b) Human rights-based guidelines when hosting mega events

Based on advocacy from the Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union, HRAC adopted a letter, inclusive of a motion to the Executive Committee ([EX32.12](#)), recommending that City Council reaffirm its commitment to the progressive realization of the right to adequate

housing and ensure that planning for large-scale events include human rights-based guidelines to minimize displacement of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

As a result of HRAC's advocacy and motion, the Executive Committee passed a motion, directing staff to include, in its report on lessons learned from the FIFA World Cup 2026, additional measures to support people experiencing homelessness when planning for future large events, steps to ensure future planning of major special events continues to promote the progressive realization of the right to housing, and measures to ensure continued compliance with human rights law.

c) Right to Housing Toronto's Housing Rights Evaluation Framework

Following a presentation from the Right to Housing Toronto (R2HTO) to HRAC on its draft Housing Rights Evaluation Framework ([HS6.5](#)), the Committee adopted a motion, requesting that City staff engage with R2HTO in the development of its independent assessment of the City's progress in advancing its Toronto Housing Charter commitments.

6. Advocating for the use of the maximum available resources

HRAC prepared and adopted two letters ([HS5.8](#), [HS8.2](#)) advocating for increases to critical City programs that support the needs of people experiencing housing precarity and homelessness in the City's 2025 and 2026 Budget. Programs named within both letters include: Eviction Prevention in the Community (EPIC), Toronto Tenant Support Program (TTSP), and Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition Program (MURA).

7. Advocating for the collection of disaggregated data to monitor housing outcomes of equity-deserving communities

The Committee passed a motion ([HS6.9](#)), requesting that staff consider opportunities to collect disaggregated data on vulnerable tenants in multi-tenant housing to ensure that services are available to support priority populations that may be disproportionately at risk of eviction.

At a separate meeting, the Committee submitted a formal endorsement ([HS8.7](#)) of recommendations from the City's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee, advocating for the collection of disaggregated race-based data for social housing tenants facing eviction ([EC24.6](#)).

In alignment with its mandate, HRAC's advocacy underscores disaggregated data collection as a central accountability and monitoring mechanism that can be used to assess progress in the fulfillment of the right to adequate housing and identify potential systemic barriers to housing.

Section 2: Toward a human rights-based approach

As a Community Advisory Body (CAB) at the City of Toronto, much of the learning for HRAC around the implementation of the right to housing has been in understanding what it means to build and practice a human rights-based approach (HRBA). As a foundational element of the City's commitment to the Right to Adequate Housing, HRAC must be working toward applying an HRBA to its own structure and practice.

Taking a human rights-based approach is about making sure that people's rights are put at the centre of policies and practices. The PANEL principles are a useful way of breaking down what this means in practice. These are: Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination, Empowerment and Legality. These have been core guiding principles in the work of HRAC over this first term, but there is much room for improvement as HRAC evolves.

HRAC's mandate and setting the agenda

The Chair and first members of HRAC were appointed in December 2023, partway through the current term of Council and other CABs. HRAC had two-and-a-half years to provide members with training, establish a workplan, and start the work to deliver on its mandate. Given the shortened working period for this Committee, that this was the first time it had been struck, and the structure of the Committee, its mandate was ambitious – broader in scope than what an inaugural committee with a shortened timeline could realistically accomplish.

That said, HRAC was effective on many aspects of its mandate, as discussed in Section 1. On the other hand, in this abbreviated time, it was not able to address the breadth of issues contained in its initial Key Priorities Framework ([HS3.1](#)). In addition, through the work of the Committee and working groups and input received from communities, additional priorities have been identified going forward as outlined in Section 3.

The content of the Committee work agenda has been shaped both by City priorities and requests for input, and to a lesser extent, the priorities set by the Committee itself or that it receives as concerns raised by the public. Finding an approach that allows for the co-creation of the Committee's agenda will be essential to balance responsiveness to City priorities and needs and enabling a proactive agenda that is shaped by the Committee and the participation of communities of rights holders.

Building human rights competencies for City staff

Overall, the City needs to increase its internal expertise and capacity on the right to housing, across all departments and specifically in departments that relate to housing and homelessness. Understanding of the right to adequate housing, how to apply a human rights-based approach to housing, and how to ensure rights-based engagement with people who are experiencing housing precarity and homelessness, must be core competencies of all City staff dealing with housing and homelessness.

This City cannot rely entirely on bodies such as HRAC or the Deputy Ombudsman, Housing to provide this capacity. In the 2022 report on establishing the cornerstones of accountability on housing in Toronto, Crean Consulting and Maytree recommended that the City invest in developing a public service that is knowledgeable about human rights principles, commitments and approaches. This remains a pressing need. Consulting with HRAC on proposed policies and programs is appropriate and adds necessary value. But HRAC cannot be expected to replace this functional capacity within the public service. These are complementary functions and roles.

Selecting and training members of HRAC

As a CAB, HRAC follows the City's standard process to select its members. The application process can be onerous for members of the public; applicants must submit a written application and sit for an interview with a panel of Councillors. The formality and format of the application and interview process might present barriers to lived/living experts and members of the public. Information about how and when to apply is publicly available, but not well-advertised or easily understood by the public.

As a general public appointment panel, the selection panel does not require expertise or competency in human rights. The selection process should take into account human rights principles. It should be designed to include the people and communities whose rights are most affected, and to remove discriminatory barriers to participation. The selection panel itself should have an appropriate level of human rights expertise, in order to make the most effective decisions about who to include on the Committee.

Once selected, members of the Committee need training on the Rules of Order and other procedures that HRAC must follow. Navigating the decision-making process and understanding how the system works takes time and experience. In order for the Committee to be effective and able to move items and recommendations forward, this understanding is required and should be available early in the process.

Committee members should also have access to training on the right to adequate housing, municipal obligations and authority, the human rights-based approach, and on facilitating participation from rights holders in safe, dignified and trauma-informed processes.

The Committee should be able to hold training outside of official meeting times. With only four meetings per year, this training takes up valuable time, and the public atmosphere of a Committee meeting is not conducive for learning and discussion. Effective training and preparation provide an essential foundation for Committee members to be empowered to engage with the system and content with confidence.

Ensuring rights-based participation of lived experts

HRAC is a committee established to advance the human right to housing in the City of Toronto. It should operate according to the principles and practices of a human rights-based approach. Rights-based participation, and the prioritization of the people most affected, are two foundational human rights principles. The people who are most affected by the housing crisis must be able to participate in the public processes that influence public decision-making and actions on housing.

To this end, HRAC must facilitate public participation in ways that uphold the safety and dignity of members of the public and members of the Committee. For instance, the Committee must have processes in place to ensure that when people provide input to the Committee, this input is received in a manner that is consistent with the seriousness of human rights concerns. This is an area that requires deeper consideration to develop a process that meets the need of deputations that involve human rights concerns.

The Committee should establish inclusive, respectful, trauma-informed processes for deputations from members of the public. This could include, for example, the ability to depute off-camera or in alternate formats. Committee members and City staff should be able to respond appropriately, in the moment and in following up, to deputations that contain sensitive information or stories of trauma. This will require training for Committee members and City staff present for deputations.

Budget should be allocated to facilitate the participation of people with lived experience of housing precarity and homelessness. For example, the Committee could provide meals or transportation costs for participants, who might have to travel to City Hall, or miss out on meals provided by shelters or community services, to participate.

People who provide input should be made aware, before they choose to participate, what to expect from the process of participating. The City could provide information, possibly in the form of a video, that explains the process. Committee members and City staff should also be trained in how to receive deputations that involve human rights violations.

Opportunities: Working groups and CABs

Working Groups have been an effective mechanism for furthering the Committee's work. These groups have the ability to co-create their own agendas, which allows them to be more responsive to issues as they arise or are raised by members of the public or by the City. They have also been able to engage directly with rights-holders in a safer environment than the full Committee currently provides. In fact, working groups have the benefit of not being required to meet at City Hall, which means they can and should be encouraged to meet in communities where rights holders live. In addition, because Working Group meetings are not publicly broadcast, they provide valuable opportunities for City staff to get informal feedback as part of their internal policy development processes.

HRAC is one CAB among many working on issues of economic and social rights. Although these groups have intersecting interests and mandates, our work is siloed. For example, the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee works on issues facing Torontonians with disabilities, a group that is disproportionately affected by the housing crisis. Similarly, the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Committee and the Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Advisory Committee have identified housing as a key priority and area of work. And yet, these Committees do not work together. The City should consider putting mechanisms in place that would facilitate or require the CABs to work together. This would strengthen their collective impact, streamline proposed solutions and enable a deeper intersectional understanding of how individuals and communities are impacted by housing decisions.

Accountability for outcomes and processes

HRAC is a cornerstone of the City's framework for progressively realizing the right to adequate housing in Toronto, and its work should advance human rights outcomes for Torontonians.

Importantly, HRAC should operate according to established human rights principles and practices. It must consider both what it is doing and how it is doing it.

Future iterations of this Committee should consider how its structure and processes can be intentionally designed to better embody a human rights-based approach.

Section 3: Key priorities recommended for HRAC's next term

As a mechanism for implementing the right to adequate housing in Toronto, it is important to leverage the actions and advocacy conducted during HRAC first term to support planning for a possible second term, should Council choose to re-strike the Committee.

At its May 29, 2026 meeting, through the item First Term Review and Key Priorities Going Forward ([HS11.3](#)), the Committee, community organizations, and members of the public engaged in a discussion on key priorities for a possible second term of HRAC which builds upon its original Key Priorities Framework ([HS3.1](#)).

These priorities include:

Centring rights holders

- Consider the intersectional impacts of the housing and homelessness crisis on equity-deserving groups, including but not limited to: Black, Indigenous, racialized communities, 2SLGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and seniors.
- Engage communities of rights holders in the City's planning, development review, and infrastructure initiatives and monitor the impacts on people experiencing homelessness and displacement.

Meeting the needs of unsheltered and unhoused people

- Improve system navigation and access pathways out of homelessness and into permanent, adequate housing.
- Increase coordinated and sustained investments in the development of supportive housing options for people exiting homelessness, ensuring that people with lived experience of homelessness are meaningfully engaged in the design and delivery.
- Develop new City-supported and City-led supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness.
- Increase access to warming centres for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness under the City's Winter Services Plan for People Experiencing Homelessness.
- Increase rent-geared-to-income (RGI) units to meet the needs of people experiencing housing precarity or homelessness.
- Enhance access-to-justice mechanisms and safety for clients in the City's emergency shelter system.
- Expand culturally adequate emergency shelter beds for 2SLGBTQ+ people experiencing housing precarity and homelessness.
- Promote trauma-informed and culturally adequate supports and housing access pathways for survivors of gender-based violence.

Making housing affordable, safe and secure

- Support partnerships and advocacy with the co-operative housing sector to increase access and supply into co-operative housing opportunities.
- Support and monitor transparency and equity in the tenanting of affordable rental opportunities in the City's Affordable Rental Program.

- Monitor the implementation of the City's Multi-Tenant Homes Framework to assess impacts on tenants and mitigate displacement.
- Monitor the implementation of the Rental Renovation Licence By-Law to assess impacts on tenants.
- Improve alignment between the implementation of RentSafeTO and bylaw enforcement actions with the City's commitment to progressively realize the right to adequate housing.

Coordinating data and systems

- Improve system and service coordination across City divisions (including divisions that indirectly support housing and shelter outcomes).
- Monitor the implementation and outcomes of the City's Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments (IDP), including resources to support encampment residents.
- Improve data collection, including disaggregated data collection, on the service and support needs of people at risk of eviction or displacement.
- Support the City's collection of qualitative data and engagement with frontline workers on gaps and opportunities to improve housing stability services.

Re-striking HRAC for a second term

In addition, representatives from the 519, ACORN, the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, and other community organizations advocated for HRAC to be re-struck in the next term of Council (HS11.3).

Conclusion

The City of Toronto has shown leadership by recognizing the human right to adequate housing and by moving the City toward implementation and accountability. This Committee is an important part of the foundational structures that can help the City to deliver on its commitment. The interest and engagement HRAC saw from City staff, Councillors, civil society, the community and lived experts, speaks to both the need and the opportunity for this mechanism. We have learned a lot during this first term, at the same time as we have been laying a foundation. It is already clear that HRAC can serve as an essential element of the architecture that drives the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Toronto.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee members who have dedicated their time and expertise, through working groups and committee meetings and all the work in between. City staff, in particular Meredith Kratzmann and Asha Sivarajah, have diligently and expertly supported our efforts throughout the term, including the summary of HRAC's activities outlined in this summary document. We have benefited immensely from the input from communities of rights holders who have shared their insights and expertise. And most importantly, we are grateful to the people with lived experience who have had the courage and conviction to participate in the Committee's work. Without their insights and contributions, none of this progress would be possible.

Appendix A: List of HRAC's Consultations, Motions, and Intergovernmental Advocacy

The full suite of actions undertaken by HRAC to fulfill its mandate can be broken down into the following categories:

1. Consultations on City Programs and Policies
2. Letters & Motions
3. Engagements with Community Organizations & Housing Rights Advocates
4. Intergovernmental Advocacy

Consultations on City Programs and Policies

Through its Working Groups and formal meetings, HRAC members have consulted with City staff over 15 times on 10 housing-related programs, policies, and services, either by request from staff or through invitation from the Committee. These consultations have served in alignment with HRAC's mandate of providing advice to City Council on policies, programs and actions the City can implement to advance its commitment to further the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Toronto.

	City Program/Policy	City Division	HRAC Working Group	Item	Feedback & Outcomes
1.	Shelter Safety Action Plan	Toronto Shelter & Support Services	Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group	Nov. 4, 2024 (HS4.2)	Feedback provided by the Working Group was included in the City's Shelter Safety Action Plan , and broadly consisted of recommendations to: • Ensure service restrictions are guided by human rights-based analysis • Consider the acute needs of people transitioning from sleeping outdoors to shelter beds • Ensure shelter staff receive adequate and ongoing training on applying both a trauma-informed and human rights-based approach in their engagement with clients
				Jun. 3, 2025 (HS6.6)	
2.	Rental Renovation License By-Law Implementation	Housing Secretariat	Maintaining Housing Working Group	Nov. 4, 2024 (HS4.4)	Feedback was transmitted to the City's Planning and Housing Committee for consideration on the item 'Implementing a Rental Renovation Licence By-law to Address Renovictions' (PH16.4), and consisted of recommendations to:

	City Program/Policy	City Division	HRAC Working Group	Item	Feedback & Outcomes
					- Consider aligning tenant compensation plans with the City's Rental Replacement Policy to ensure tenant compensation is fair and adequate - Ensure tenants are engaged in the design, implementation, and ongoing review of the By-law
3.	Multi-Tenant Housing Framework Implementation	Housing Secretariat	Maintaining Housing Working Group	Jun. 3, 2025 (HS6.8)	Feedback provided resulted in a request for staff to provide a presentation to HRAC on programs and supports for MTH tenants and a motion (HS6.9), requesting staff to consider options to gather disaggregated data on MTH tenants to identify groups disproportionately at risk of displacement. Additional recommendations included: - Conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the Multi-Tenant Housing Framework implementation to ensure that it adequately serves tenants and reflects their lived experience - Consider increasing grant funding for the Multi-Tenant Houses Renovation & Repair Program in keeping operators in the market
4.	Integration of the Affordable Rental Program onto the City's Online Portal	Housing Secretariat	Improving Access to Housing Working Group & HRAC	Jun. 3, 2025 (HS6.7)	Staff consulted with the Working Group and the broader Committee on several occasions on the City's integration of affordable rental units onto its centralized online portal, MyAccessToHousingTO (MATHTO). Feedback provided by the Committee was considered within the City's Staff Report to City Council (PH29.5), which included: - Ensure tenanting processes are assessed for potential discrimination from housing providers, especially if the provider requests specialized access to units for non-priority populations - Provide supports within shelters so applicants in high-needs situations do not miss housing offers due to barriers accessing technology
				Sept. 16, 2025 (HS7.7)	
				Nov. 19, 2025 (HS8.3)	

	City Program/Policy	City Division	HRAC Working Group	Item	Feedback & Outcomes
				Feb. 20, 2026 (HS9.6)	Ensure applicants are connected with affordable housing opportunities they can afford to ensure long term housing stability
5.	Pathways to Housing Tool	Toronto Shelter & Support Services	Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group	Sept. 16, 2025 (HS7.5)	Through an initial consultation with staff on the City's Coordinated Access System, Working Group members identified the need for improved system navigation for people experiencing homelessness.
				Feb. 20, 2026 (HS9.5)	Members advocated for and supported an amendment to a Council direction (EC23.6) for Staff to create a resource, mapping pathways from homelessness to housing through the services offered by the City and community organizations, inclusive of human rights-based outcomes. Staff from Toronto Shelter & Support Services subsequently consulted with the Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group on a draft Pathways to Housing Tool. The tool is intended to be rolled out to service users and frontline workers in 2026.
6.	Rental Replacement and Demolition Policy: Vulnerable Tenants Project	City Planning	Maintaining Housing Working Group	Nov. 19, 2025 (HS8.6)	Through an engagement with staff from City Planning, the Working Group provided feedback on the City's Rental Replacement and Demolition Policies for vulnerable tenants in alignment with PH20.2. Feedback was considered within a Staff Report to City Council (PH27.9), and included: - Consider including survivors of gender-based violence as part of the eligibility criteria for tenants with additional support needs; - Consider challenges associated with vulnerable tenants being required to self-identify and provide supporting documentation;

	City Program/Policy	City Division	HRAC Working Group	Item	Feedback & Outcomes
					Consider offering the following additional supports: trauma-informed tenant support worker, moving and packing services, and supporting tenant relocation. As a result of the feedback from HRAC's Maintaining Housing Working Group, an additional stakeholder engagement was conducted with gender-based violence (GBV) and women's advocates.
7.	Access to Shelter Framework	Toronto Shelter & Support Services	Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group	Nov. 19, 2025 (HS8.4)	Members engaged with staff on its draft Access to Shelter Framework, in response to City Council direction CC28.2 and in alignment with findings and recommendations from the Deputy Ombudsman, Housing's report: An Investigation into the City's Decision to Stop Allowing Refugee Claimants into Base Shelter System Beds. Feedback provided by the Working Group was considered within the City's Staff Report to Council (EC25.9), and included: - Consider including equity and human rights analysis to each component of the Framework, for example, in assessing operational impacts to a shelter eligibility change; - Embed the experiences of people experiencing homelessness in the design of the Framework as their right to adequate housing is directly impacted by it. Feedback provided by the Working Group helped shape the Framework's equity and rights-based approach.
8.	Outcomes of the City's Enhanced Outreach Model	Toronto Shelter & Support Services	Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group	Apr. 8, 2026 (HS10.5)	In alignment with HS7.5, members of the Working Group engaged with staff to better understand the human rights-based outcomes advanced through the City's Enhanced Outreach Model, which is part of the City's broader Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments in Toronto (IDP). Feedback and discussion included:

	City Program/Policy	City Division	HRAC Working Group	Item	Feedback & Outcomes
					- Consider translating qualitative and quantitative data to demonstrate how the Enhanced Outreach Model and broader IDP is a more successful and human rights-informed way to respond to encampments (in comparison to enforcement and/or displacement); - Consider trauma-informed supports for people transitioning from an encampment to a shelter or supportive housing
9.	Monitoring Future Impacts of the Province's Bill 60	Housing Secretariat	Maintaining Housing Working Group	Apr. 8, 2026 (HS10.6)	Members engaged with staff on the City's proposed plan to track the impacts of Province's Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 (Bill 60) on Toronto tenants. Feedback included: - Consider undertaking a broader assessment of the scope of services that are available to protect Toronto tenants at risk of evictions - Ensure stronger service coordination across City divisions, community organizations, and other orders of government - Ensure that data currently collected by City-administered eviction prevention and housing support programs demonstrate the critical need for these programs
10	Governance Framework for the City's Service User Advisory Group (SUAG)	Toronto Shelter & Support Services	Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group	May 29, 2026 (HS11.1)	Members engaged with staff from Toronto Shelter, and Support Services (TSSS) and representatives from The Neighborhood Group (TNG) on the governance framework and recruitment strategy of a new Service User Advisory Group (SUAG). The following feedback was provided to staff: - Members should receive policy and housing rights training to build their capacity to provide advice to staff - SUAG members should have the capacity to table items for SUAG meetings and co-create a workplan so they can input on key priorities - The feedback structure and relationship between SUAG members, City staff, and the operator, The Neighbourhood Group, should be formalized in its Terms of Reference

Letters & Motions

Through its formal meetings, HRAC passed motions and submitted public letters to the City's Executive Committee on six key City programs and policy items, in alignment with its mandate of providing advice to City Council to ensure that the interests and needs of those with living/lived experiences of housing precarity, discrimination and homelessness are reflected in City programs and service delivery.

	Topic	Item	Feedback & Outcomes
1.	Advocating for the Use of the Maximum Available Resources through the City Budget	Feb. 6, 2025 (HS5.8)	HRAC prepared and submitted two letters, advocating for increases to critical City programs which support the needs of people experiencing housing precarity and homelessness in the City's 2025 and 2026 Budget: • 2025 City Budget Letter • 2026 City Budget Letter Programs and initiatives named in both letters include: Eviction Prevention in the Community (EPIC), Toronto Tenant Support Program (TTSP), Multi-Tenant Houses Renovation & Repair Program, Multi- Unit Residential Acquisition Program (MURA), Rent Bank, and funding for more warming centres under the City's Winter Services Plan. The Committee additionally recommended that the City provide a comprehensive overview of investments needed to accelerate the development of emergency shelter infrastructure, supportive housing, and affordable housing as well as a consolidated summary of all housing- and homelessness-related allocations across City divisions.
		Nov. 19, 2025 (HS8.2)	
2.	Mapping Supports for Tenants of Multi-Tenant Homes at Risk of Displacement	Jun. 3, 2025 (HS6.3)	Following a presentation and update from the Deputy Ombudsman Toronto, Housing on its investigation on the City's Response to a Vital Services Outage in a Multi-Tenant Home , the Committee passed a motion, requesting staff to provide an update to HRAC, mapping the availability of resources, services, and supports for tenants at risk of displacement. Staff subsequently provided a presentation (HS7.3), overview key programs administered by the City to support tenants at risk of eviction and its impacts on tenants.

	Topic	Item	Feedback & Outcomes
3.	Advocating for the Collection of Disaggregated Data to Monitor Housing Outcomes	Jun. 3, 2025 (HS6.9)	The Committee passed a motion, requesting that staff consider opportunities to collect disaggregated data on vulnerable tenants in multi-tenant housing to ensure that services are available to support priority populations that may be disproportionately at risk of eviction.
		Nov. 19, 2025 (HS8.7)	At a separate meeting, the Committee submitted a formal endorsement of recommendations from the City's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee, advocating for the collection of disaggregated race-based data for social housing tenants facing eviction (EC24.6). In alignment with its mandate, HRAC's advocacy underscores disaggregated data collection as a central accountability and monitoring mechanism which can be used to assess progress in the fulfillment of the right to adequate housing and identify potential systemic barriers to housing.
4.	Ensuring Alignment Between Changes to the Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments (IDP) and the Toronto Housing Charter	Nov. 19, 2025 (HS8.11)	In response to a Council decision (MM34.4) to amend the City's Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments (IDP), HRAC adopted a letter, inclusive of a motion, to the Executive Committee, recommending that any changes to the IDP be assessed for compliance with the City's commitment to progressively realize the right to adequate housing, as affirmed through the Council-adopted Toronto Housing Charter.
5.	Advocating for Supportive Housing Program for Women, Gender-Diverse People, Including Survivors of Gender-Based Violence	Apr. 8, 2026 (HS10.3)	Based on a letter submitted by a member, the Committee adopted a motion recommending that the City's Housing Pathways for Women and Gender-Diverse People Working Group, explore models of supportive housing programming that are trauma-informed and culturally adequate to support women, gender-diverse people, and especially survivors of gender-based violence.
6.	Advocating Against the Displacement of People Experiencing Homelessness During Large-Scale City Events	May 29, 2026 (HS11.5)	Based on advocacy from the Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union (HS11.2), HRAC adopted a letter, inclusive of a motion to the Executive Committee (EX32.12), recommending that City Council reaffirm its commitment to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing when bidding for future large-scale events. The motion also included a recommendation to ensure that human rights-based guidelines are

	Topic	Item	Feedback & Outcomes
			established to minimize the displacement and support people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the planning for large-scale events. As a result of HRAC's advocacy and motion, the Executive Committee passed a motion, directing staff to include, in its report on lessons learned from the FIFA World Cup 2026, additional measures to support people experiencing homelessness when planning for future large events, and to ensure future planning of large events continues to promote the progressive realization of the right to housing.

Engagements with Community Organizations & Housing Rights Advocates and Experts

As a Committee, HRAC engaged with and heard from nine community organizations and housing rights advocates in alignment with its mandate of supporting the City's engagement with equity-deserving communities, including those with living/lived experiences to help identify systemic barriers to adequate housing, and to recommend actions to remove said barriers to City Council.

	Presentation	Item	Description
1.	HRAC Member, Bahar Shadpour on Building a Common Understanding of Housing Rights	Mar. 18, 2024 (HS1.5)	HRAC Member and advocate, Bahar Shadpour, provided an educational presentation to the Committee on the principles of the right to adequate housing to support members' capacity to provide human rights-based advice on systemic housing barriers to City Council, in alignment is its mandate.
2.	Key Updates from the Deputy Ombudsman Toronto, Housing, Reema Patel	May 13, 2024 (HS2.1)	Deputy Ombudsman Toronto, Housing, Reema Patel, provided several presentations to the Committee, overviewing key updates on investigative and consultative work carried by the Ombudsman Toronto's Housing Unit.
		Sept. 23, 2024 (HS3.3)	
		Feb. 6, 2025 (HS5.5)	
		Jun. 3, 2025 (HS6.3)	
3.	Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on	Nov. 4, 2025 (HS4.7)	Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, provided an educational presentation on applying a

	Presentation	Item	Description
	Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha		human rights-based approach to housing and identifying human rights outcomes that municipalities can work toward achieving.
4.	Federal Housing Advocate, Marie-Josée Houle	Feb. 6, 2025 (HS5.4)	Federal Housing Advocate, Marie-Josée Houle, provided two presentations to HRAC, overviewing her office's systemic review on encampments and the role of property standards enforcement in maintaining adequate housing and supporting tenants.
		Apr. 8, 2026 (HS10.2)	
5.	Right to Housing Network Toronto	Jun. 3, 2025 (HS6.5)	Representatives from the Right to Housing Network Toronto (R2HTO) provided a presentation on its draft Housing Rights Evaluation Framework. As a result, the Committee adopted a motion, requesting that the Housing Secretariat engage with R2HTO in the development of its assessment of the City's progress in advancing the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.
6.	Centre for Independent Living in Toronto and the GTA Disability Coalition	Jun. 3, 2025 (HS6.7)	Representatives from the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT) and the GTA Disability Coalition provided a presentation to the Improving Access to Housing Working Group, and subsequently the full Committee, to share emerging issues related to housing access for people with disabilities.
		Sept. 16, 2025 (HS7.9)	
7.	Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto	Apr. 8, 2026 (HS10.4)	A representative from the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto (CHFT) provided a presentation to overview how households can access co-operative housing and how the supply can be increased to address the growing demand for safe, affordable, and adequate housing.
8.	Nellie's	Apr. 8, 2026 (HS10.3)	Representatives from Nellie's presented key findings and recommendations from its policy position paper, <i>Breaking Barriers: Centering the Voices of Women and Gender-Diverse People in Accessing the Affordable Housing System</i> . Given the accessibility issues raised in Nellie's paper, the Committee passed a motion, recommending that Nellie's deliver the presentation to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee.
9.	Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union	May 29, 2026 (HS11.1)	Representatives from the Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union provided a presentation to HRAC's Supporting Unhoused Rights Holders Working Group, and subsequently the full Committee, on its mandate and key issues they see impacting unhoused and precariously housed people in Toronto.
		May 29, 2026 (HS11.2)	

Intergovernmental Advocacy

As a Committee, HRAC passed motions or documented public statements on six intergovernmental policy items, in alignment with its mandate of providing advice to City Council on advocacy with other orders of government to recommend actions that can be taken to address systemic barriers to adequate housing which lie outside of municipal jurisdiction.

	Topic	Level of Government	Item	Description
1.	Advocating for the Rights of People Residing in Encampments	Provincial	Nov. 4, 2025 (HS4.7)	In response to the Premier of Ontario's proposal to invoke the notwithstanding clause to allow municipalities to clear encampments, the Committee passed a motion, sharing its concern with the Premier's proposal to override the Charter rights of people who are unhoused and unsheltered in Ontario cities by clearing encampments.
2.	Advocating for the Rights of Refugee Claimants Experiencing Homelessness	Federal	Sept. 16, 2025 (HS7.2)	In response to Government of Canada's decision to significantly cut funding to the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP), the Committee passed a motion, recommending that the Chair of HRAC write letters to the Federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and to the Federal Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, to express the Committee's deep concern regarding the funding cuts to IHAP and the resulting impact on capacity in the City's refugee serving community and the wider City shelter system. The Chair submitted a letter on behalf of HRAC, underscoring that the cut to IHAP jeopardized the City's ability to meet its minimum core obligations to protect, respect and fulfill the human right to adequate housing.
3.	Advocating for Renters' Rights	Provincial	Nov. 19, 2025 (HS8.1)	As part of the Chair's Update to the Committee, the Chair shared concerns over the Province of Ontario's recently tabled <i>Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025</i> , (Bill 60), which would weaken tenant protections by reducing the eviction notice period for rental arrears and significantly diminish renters' ability to advocate for themselves when faced with an eviction. The Chair additionally noted that an increase in evictions would result in more homelessness.
4.	Advocating Against Funding Cuts to the	Provincial	Nov. 19, 2025	In response to the Province of Ontario's decision to significantly cut funding to the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) for 2026, the Committee passed

	Topic	Level of Government	Item	Description
	Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)		(HS8.2)	a motion, requesting that the Chair of the Housing Rights Advisory Committee write a letter to the provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in alignment with EX26.13 , to express the Committee's concerns regarding the funding cuts to COHB. The Chair subsequently submitted a letter, highlighting that the cut to COHB would significantly reduce the amount of people able to leave the shelter system and move into adequate housing.
5.	Advocating Against the Province's Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025 (Bill 6)	Provincial	Feb. 20, 2026 (HS9.1)	As part of the Chair's Update to the Committee, the Chair shared concerns over potential new and regulations under the Province's recently tabled Bill 6, which could grant special transit constables with certain policing powers, including the authority to arrest or charge people who are believed to be consuming a controlled substance in public transit. The Chair noted that the proposed Bill undermined the TTC's own Community Safety, Security, and Well-being Plan, and encouraged City Council and the TTC to maintain its approach of providing overdose prevention, community engagement, and mental health support services for people in transit.
6.	Advocating for People Experiencing Addiction	Provincial	Apr. 8, 2026 (HS10.1)	As part of the Chair's Update to the Committee, the Chair shared concerns with the Province of Ontario's decision to terminate funding for supervised consumption sites. In her letter, the Chair noted that the toxic drug supply had disproportionate impacts on people experiencing homelessness and defunding this pathway to treatment and housing stability and undermined Canada's commitment to progressively realize the right to adequate housing.