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April 14, 2026

Nancy Martins
City Clerk's Office
Planning and Housing Committee
Toronto City Hall
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Copy to: Councillor Gord Perks, Chair, Planning and Housing Committee
Mayor of Toronto, Olivia Chow

Dear Members of the Planning and Housing Committee

Re: Item PH29.5 – Advancing the City's Affordable Housing Access System

Wigwamen Incorporated is Toronto's oldest and largest non-profit Indigenous housing provider. We write today to provide feedback regarding the proposed implementation approach for the new Centralized Affordable Rental housing Access System as set out in the City's staff report dated March 27, 2026 (the "Report"), item PH29.5.

I want to begin by acknowledging that we have for many years had a strong partnership with the City of Toronto generally, and its housing and homelessness staff more specifically, and that partnership continues to this day.

With that as context, however, we wish to express our concerns about some aspects of the report that's being considered by the committee.

To begin with, to the best of our knowledge, while the city brought material and ideas related to the Affordable Housing system to the Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board (TICAB) for early consultation, no follow-up was completed, and none of the specific recommendations contained within this report were brought to the TICAB or to Indigenous non-profit housing providers for review and comment.

In the context of pursuing reconciliation, genuine, respectful, and thoughtful consultation with the Indigenous community, including Indigenous non-profit housing providers, ought to be a necessary pre-condition for the crafting and implementation of recommendations contained in reports such as this. On a go-forward basis, our hope would be that recommendations that affect the Indigenous community, not go to committees without extensive prior consultation and clear acceptance by the community.

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Although the report deals primarily with “affordable” rental housing, as opposed to RGI housing, and although Indigenous non-profit housing providers such as Wigwamen would typically be focused on RGI housing, the fact remains that Indigenous housing providers such as Wigwamen often have referral agreements for affordable housing developments, and as such, the recommendations that the committee will consider are of considerable interest to us.

Given that policy interest, and given our earlier comments about the crucial importance of prior and meaningful consultation, we respectfully request the Planning and Housing Committee to direct the Executive Director of the Housing Secretariat to:

- 1) confirm that Indigenous housing providers will continue to have autonomy over access to both Indigenous designated affordable housing units, and Indigenous RGI units; and
- 2) present the recommendations contained within this report, along with an explanation of how they will impact access to affordable units at a meeting of the Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board; and
- 3) ensure that any implementation plan provides adequate time for education, training, and transition planning.

Wigwamen remains committed to working collaboratively with the city to deliver well-managed RGI and affordable rental housing in Toronto. We respectfully urge the Committee to implement the actions above.

Yours sincerely,



Angus D. Palmer
Chief Executive Officer