



Co-operative Housing  
Federation of Canada



July 7, 2023

Her Worship Olivia Chow  
Mayor, City of Toronto  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Sent by email: [mayorto@toronto.ca](mailto:mayorto@toronto.ca)

Dear Madam,

On behalf of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto (CHFT) and the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada), we would like to offer our sincere congratulations on your election as Mayor of Toronto.

As a former housing co-op member, we know you are very familiar with the co-op housing model. Co-op housing fosters strong, affordable communities that offer security of tenure and member ownership. The co-op housing sector is well positioned to work closely with public, private and non-profit partners to meet growing housing needs in the City of Toronto.

For over 50 years, the co-op housing sector has worked with all orders of government and communities across the country to build and maintain vibrant, affordable non-profit housing co-operatives. Currently, CHF Canada represents over 2,200 housing co-ops, home to nearly a quarter of a million Canadians in every province and territory. In Toronto, CHFT represents over 185 co-ops, home to more than 50,000 people, located in Toronto, Durham, and York Region.

As a sector, our top priority is growing the number of co-operative homes, so that more Canadians and more Torontonians can enjoy the benefits of membership including the security, community and affordability that co-ops provide. We believe that increasing the supply of co-op housing is an important part of the solution to Toronto's housing crisis.

Currently, Toronto's Housing Now program includes two co-operative developments, including one at Kennedy Commons – which would be the largest affordable co-op housing project in Toronto in the past 25 years with over 600 co-op housing units at its current scale. We are encouraged to see your enthusiasm for getting homes built faster and working with the provincial and federal governments. We hope with your support, work will be underway on Kennedy Commons in the near future.

In addition, the co-op housing sector is ready to be a partner and work with you to enact your affordable housing plans, such as the *City Homes Plan* to allow the City to act as a “developer to

build 25,000 rent-controlled homes over 8 years on land the City already owns” and the *Secure Affordable Homes Fund* to purchase, repair and transfer affordable rental apartment buildings to not-for-profit, community, and Indigenous housing providers including land trusts.

Our movement is resourceful, passionate, and committed to *Co-op Housing For All*, our vision of growing the co-op housing model. To that end, we will reach out in the coming weeks to schedule a meeting. Should you require any information, please contact Diana Yoon, Program Manager, Policy and Government Relations, at [dyoon@chfcanada.coop](mailto:dyoon@chfcanada.coop).

We wish you the very best as you take up your duties and responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,



[Patricia Tessier](#)

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[Tom Clement](#)

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