

Half of Toronto renters are spending more than 30% of their incomes on housing. Young people are being forced out of the city, newcomers can't find a foothold, and homelessness has never been greater. It's a crisis that affects us all: women and families unable to find a safe and lasting home, closed doors for Indigenous, racialized and LGBTQ2SIA people, and unsuitable conditions for people with disabilities.

Housing is a fundamental human right. We are seeking your pledge for this next term of Council: to take five practical steps towards making Toronto a fairer and more equitable city for ALL.

2018 Toronto Election: The affordable housing pledge

1. No more homeless deaths

Since the last municipal election, 201 homeless people have died. We're on the path to protecting people from the elements by creating 1000 new shelter beds, and upgrading respite centres and Out of the Cold programs. Now we also need to ramp up the tools we have – housing allowances and appropriate supports, first and last month's rent, legal and family support – to stop people from becoming homeless in the first place.

I pledge: to fulfill City Council's commitments to upgrade our emergency shelter system to ensure it has the capacity to meet immediate needs, and to develop and fund a systematic approach to preventing homelessness.

3. Make "affordable housing" truly affordable

Right now, we define "affordable housing" as anything at or below Toronto's average market rent. But affordable for whom? In Toronto, a \$1,426/month two-bedroom apartment is deemed "affordable" by the City, yet it is out of reach for any household making less than \$50,000 per year.

I pledge: to support a definition of "affordable housing" based on household income - not market rents - to reflect what Torontonians can *actually* afford.

2. Financial stability for Toronto Community Housing

TCHC houses 58,500 of Toronto's lowest-income families and seniors. We can't afford to lose a single home. Toronto promised to introduce a permanent funding formula in 2019 to put TCHC on a stable financial footing and end the cycle of crises, bailouts and lost homes.

I pledge: to establish a predictable, sustainable operating and capital funding formula for all 58,500 homes now owned by Toronto Community Housing.

4. Ensure new residential development includes everyone

The typical cost of a new Toronto condo last June was \$774,554 – up 23.5% since June, 2017. So where are the 80% of households who make less than \$150,000 per year—that's 80% of Toronto's total population—supposed to live? It's time to make sure that wherever there is new development, permanently affordable housing is always part of the mix.

I pledge: to support inclusionary zoning policies that ensure *permanently* affordable rental housing – including deeply affordable homes – is part of every new development.

5. Mobilize Toronto's resources to build more affordable housing

We can't just wait for the private sector. Toronto needs to go "all in" – mobilizing its own land, money, borrowing capacity, planning and regulatory tools – to increase the affordable housing supply.

I pledge:

- to make the creation of **permanently** affordable housing part of the core mandate of CreateTO
- to fast-track planning and permit approvals and use Toronto's zoning powers to expand Toronto's affordable and supportive housing stock
- to bring an "affordable housing lens" to all city initiatives, so that whenever Toronto plans a transit station, or a daycare, or a library, it asks, "How can we use this opportunity to create some affordable housing?"

Pledge sponsors

263/265 Russell Hill Tenants Association
36 Castle Frank Road Tenants' Association
99 Dowling Avenue Tenant Association
Aboriginal Legal Services
Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services
Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO)
Agincourt Community Services Association
Akelius Tenants Network
Boys and Girls Club of East Scarborough
Build a Better Bloor Dufferin
Canadian Federation of Students - Ontario
Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA)
CHF Canada Ontario Region
Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic
Fairbnb Canada
Family Service Toronto
FCJ Refugee Centre
Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations
Glen Elm Tenant Association
Graydon Hall Tenants Association
Health Providers Against Poverty
HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO)
Homecoming Community Choice Coalition
Houselink Community Homes
Housing Action Now
IAVGO Community Legal Clinic
Income Security Advocacy Centre
Injured Workers Action for Justice
Inner City Family Health Team
Kensington-Bellwoods Community Legal Services
LAMP Community Health Centre
Malvern Action for Neighbourhood Change
Ontario Campaign 2000
PARC
Park Vista Tenants' Association
Parkdale Community Legal Services
Parkdale People's Economy
Right to Housing Coalition
Sanctuary Ministries Toronto
Sistering
Social Planning Toronto
Springtide Resources
Street Health
Street Nurses Network
The Empowerment Council
The Interfaith Coalition to Fight Homelessness
Toronto ACORN
Toronto Drop-In Network
Toronto St. Paul's Tenant Associations Network
Toronto Youth Cabinet
Voices of Scarborough
Wellesley Institute
West Scarborough Community Legal Services
Workers Action Centre
Working for Change

www.TOhousingPledge.ca

To confirm your commitment to the affordable housing pledge, please email TOhousingpledge@gmail.com no later than October 10, 2018.