

Supporting 2SLGBTQ+ Communities in Accessing Safe, Affordable and Supportive Housing

Overview

- Housing TO Action Plan Commitments
- Establishing the Role or Function of a Housing Commissioner
- Developing Strategies & Programs to Meet the Needs of 2SLGBTQ Communities

The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan

The HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan (HousingTO Plan) provides a blueprint for action across the full housing spectrum –from homelessness to rental and ownership housing to long-term care for seniors

The HousingTO Plan sets a targets through directing new and enhanced strategic investments from all orders of governments to:

- Approve 40,000 affordable rental homes, including 18,000 supportive housing units;
- Enhance eviction prevention measures;
- Adopt a revised Toronto Housing Charter – Opportunity for All
- Support in-home care and long-term care options for seniors
- Increase the supply of affordable and accessible homes.

The HousingTO Plan also emphasizes the need to engage with communities and people with lived experience to deliver housing and supports that respond to their needs and strengths.

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?

1. Adopt a revised "Toronto Housing Charter – Opportunity for All"
2. Enhance Partnerships with Indigenous Community Partners
3. Prevent Homelessness and Improve Pathways to Housing Stability
4. Provide Pathways to Support Women
5. Maintain and Increase Access to Affordable Rents
6. Meeting the Diverse Housing Needs of Seniors
7. Ensure Well-Maintained and Secure Homes for Renters
8. Support Toronto Community Housing and its Residents
9. Continue the Revitalization of Neighbourhoods
10. Create New Rental Housing Responsive to Residents' Needs
11. Help People Buy and Stay in Their Homes
12. Improve Accountability and Transparency in Delivery of Housing Services to Residents
13. Enhance Partnerships and Intergovernmental Strategy



HousingTO Commitments to 2SLGBTQ+ Communities

Action 2: Review the establishment of a Housing Commissioner role or function to address systemic discrimination and barriers to the progressive realization of the right to housing

- HousingTO Action Plan contains commitments specific to 2SLGBTQ+ people, recognizing this community faces discrimination in the housing system which creates significant barriers to realizing housing stability.

Action 13: Develop strategies and programs that meet the needs of specific populations.

- Develop specific interventions for equity deserving and vulnerable groups with specific needs, including 2SLGBTQ+ individuals.

As stated in the HousingTO Implementation Plan, the Housing Secretariat is developing a Data Strategy. Through the design and implementation of our data strategy, the City will strengthen the collection and use of equity-related demographic data related to housing, in order to measure progress to equitable housing outcomes.

Action 2: Role or Function of Housing Commissioner

In July 2022, City Council adopted the City Manager's recommendations in [EX34.7](#) for a coordinated suite of actions to advance the role or function of Housing Commissioner. This arose from a [joint report from Crean and Maytree Foundation](#), and included extensive consultation. Actions included:

- Establishing a new Council advisory body with lived experience/ expertise to advise on the progressive realization to the right to adequate housing
- Direct the Ombudsman to consider enhanced resources for dedicated Deputy Ombudsman, Housing
- Develop training programs on housing human rights for City staff in leadership, policy, and other roles that intersect with housing system

Deputy Ombudsman, Housing

In March 2023, [City Council approved a report](#) to establish a new Deputy Ombudsman, Housing position and unit within the Ombudsman's Office, who will focus on investigations and reports related to systemic housing discrimination and systemic hurdles in the City of Toronto's housing planning and service delivery roles. The role is currently under recruitment.

Action 2: Role or Function of Housing Commissioner

Housing Rights Advisory Committee

- In March 2023, [City Council adopted the terms of reference](#) for a Housing Rights Advisory Committee (HRAC).
- The HRAC is intended to be a dedicated mechanism to represent the views of those with living/lived experience of housing precarity and homelessness, housing advocates, academics and service providers, as well as to inform policies, programs and decision-making of City Council as it pertains to furthering the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.
- The Advisory Committee will be clerked, with 11 public members selected through a public appointments process managed by the City Clerk's office. The Advisory will be supported to engage with other CABs (Confronting anti-black racism advisory, accessibility advisory, 2SLGBTQ advisory) and will undertake its work through an intersectional equity lens.

Action 2: Role or Function of Housing Commissioner

Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Public membership shall include (in addition to other criteria):

- i. 4 members with a diversity of lived/living experience of housing precarity, discrimination, social or supportive housing and/or homelessness;
- ii. 7 representatives of organizations working in such fields as housing services, health services, legal services, community or organizations focused on research related to poverty reduction, housing and/or human rights.
- iii. At least two of the public members will self-identify as being from the 2SLGBTQ+ communities;

The Chair shall be appointed by Council.

Action 13: Develop strategies & programs that meet the needs of 2LSGBTQ populations

In 2021-2022:

- Engaged the 2SLGBTQ Advisory Committee in 2021 and 2022, in partnership with SSHA, for focussed discussion on housing and homelessness
- Summer 2021 completed preliminary research with focus on safe affordable housing for 2SLGBTQ communities, met with initial stakeholders (including 519)

Committed to partnering with Divisions (SSHA, SDFA on the Two-Spirit, Trans, Non-Binary Youth Service Plan), and engaging service providers and diverse 2SLGBTQ communities to:

- Create strategies to deliver inclusive and supportive housing options for 2LSGBTQ individuals,
- Improve physical design of buildings as well as operating and support models, and
- Advance and measure equitable outcomes across the housing continuum for equity-deserving groups

Housing Secretariat will also leverage the Council Advisory Bodies to inform development of strategies