



December 10th 2024.

Toronto Community Housing Board of Directors
Toronto Community Housing Corporation
931 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2H2
deputations@torontohousing.ca

Subject: Equity in Tenant Representation – Response to Refreshed Tenant Engagement System and Implementation Plan

Dear Members of the Toronto Community Housing Board of Directors,

I am writing on behalf of Neighbourhood Pods TO (NPTO) to emphasize the concerns and recommendations outlined in a letter previously submitted to Mayor Olivia Chow and the Planning and Housing Committee regarding equitable tenant representation within the Toronto Community Housing Corporation's (TCHC) Tenant Advisory Committee. This matter aligns directly with **Item 12(b): Refreshed Tenant Engagement System and Implementation Plan**, and we believe it is vital for the Board to consider the implications of equitable tenant representation in this context.

In our correspondence, we underscored the following key points:

Equity and Fair Representation

The process for selecting tenant representatives to serve on the Tenant Advisory Committee must prioritize equity and fairness. Allowing the landlord (TCHC) or its owner (the City of Toronto) to unilaterally select representatives may introduce bias and diminish authentic tenant participation. We advocate for a model where tenants themselves have a meaningful role in electing their representatives, ensuring diverse voices from Toronto's communities are authentically represented.

Recommendation for Tenant Selection Process

We recommend adopting a democratic tenant election process for selecting representatives to the Tenant Advisory Committee. This approach aligns with TCHC's mission of fostering vibrant communities through inclusive engagement, while empowering tenants to have a direct say in decision-making processes that affect their housing and well-being.

Addressing Challenges in Representation

The challenges highlighted in the report regarding attendance and membership changes during 2023 further support the need for a robust, transparent, and democratic selection process. A

tenant-elected model would create greater accountability, buy-in, and continuity among committee members.

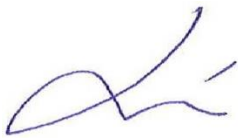
Alignment with Refreshed Tenant Engagement Plan

The proposed Refreshed Tenant Engagement System and Implementation Plan offers an opportunity to establish a foundation of trust and empowerment by addressing these concerns. We urge the Board to ensure that any adjustments to the plan include provisions for tenant-led representation that reflect the diversity and lived experiences within TCHC communities.

We have attached our original deputation letter to Mayor Chow and the Planning and Housing Committee for your reference. As a coalition committed to resident-led and community-focused initiatives, NPTO stands ready to support TCHC in the development and implementation of an equitable and democratic tenant representation model.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to engaging further and are hopeful that TCHC will take proactive steps to respect and empower tenants through meaningful and equitable engagement.

Sincerely,



Sincerely,
Walied Khogali Ali
Neighbourhood Pods TO
416-625-7712
[walied.k@gmail.com]

Attachment: Deputation Letter to Mayor Olivia Chow and Planning and Housing Committee – April 5, 2024

The Neighbourhood Pods TO (NPTO) embodies a consortium of grassroots organizations, community workers, and advocates, all rallying under a unified mission to bolster the economic livelihoods and enhance the overall well-being of low-income individuals and communities across Toronto.



April 5th 2024.

Ms. Olivia Chow
Mayor
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
mayor_chow@toronto.ca

RE: Deputation to the Planning and Housing Committee: Ensuring Equitable Tenant Representation in TCHC's Tenant Advisory Committee

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Esteemed Members of City Council and the Planning and Housing Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of Neighbourhood Pods TO (NPTO), a consortium of grassroots organizations, community workers, and advocates united by the mission to enhance the economic livelihoods and overall well-being of low-income individuals and communities across Toronto. Formed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic through a city-funded Mutual Aid Project, NPTO embodies a network dedicated to resident-led and community-focused programs and initiatives.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this deputation focused on agenda item PH11.7 - Progress Update on Toronto Community Housing Corporation's (TCHC) Tenant Advisory Committee, as outlined in the report from the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat, dated March 15, 2024, and the accompanying Terms of Reference.

After reviewing the provided documents and considering the critical role of the Tenant Advisory Committee in shaping the future of tenant engagement within TCHC, we wish to emphasize the importance of adopting an equitable and fair approach to the engagement and selection of TCHC tenants to serve on the Committee.

Equity and Fair Representation:

It is paramount that the process for selecting tenant representatives on the Tenant Advisory Committee be rooted in principles of equity and fairness. The current approach, which sees the landlord (TCHC) and its owner, the City of Toronto, selecting tenants, raises concerns regarding the potential for bias and the undermining of genuine tenant representation. To truly reflect the diverse voices within TCHC communities encompassing a broad range of ethno-racial backgrounds, languages, abilities, genders, sexual identities, and socio-economic statuses, it is essential that tenants themselves have a significant role in selecting their representatives.

Recommendation for Tenant Selection Process:

We strongly recommend that a more democratic process be implemented, allowing TCHC tenants to elect their representatives to the Tenant Advisory Committee. Such a process would not only align with TCHC's vision for fostering vibrant communities through diverse and inclusive engagement methods but also ensure that all tenants have a voice in decision-making processes that impact their housing and communities.

Challenges and Moving Forward:

The challenges encountered in 2023, including issues related to attendance and membership changes, highlight the need for a robust and transparent selection process. As the committee seeks to fill vacancies and adjust its operations, now is the opportune time to revisit and revise the selection process to ensure it is as equitable and representative as possible.

In conclusion, NPTO stands ready to support TCHC, the City of Toronto, and the Planning and Housing Committee in developing and implementing a more equitable and democratic tenant representation model. We believe that by working together, we can build a Tenant Advisory Committee that truly embodies the diverse and vibrant spirit of Toronto's communities, ultimately leading to more effective and impactful tenant engagement.

Thank you for considering our deputation. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate on this important matter and are hopeful for positive changes that respect and empower TCHC tenants.

Sincerely,



Walied Khogali Ali

Coordinator

Neighbourhood Pods TO (NPTO)

The Neighbourhood Pods TO (NPTO) embodies a consortium of grassroots organizations, community workers, and advocates, all rallying under a unified mission to bolster the economic livelihoods and enhance the overall well-being of low-income individuals and communities across Toronto.