

## Sean Baird speech: Regent Park 4A Funding (March 2)



Good morning,

My name is Sean Baird, I am the President and CEO of Toronto Community Housing.

As the City of Toronto's public builder, TCHC is proud to play a role in turning investment into active construction and completed homes.

Over the past decade, we have delivered more than 10,000 new affordable homes, with thousands more in the pipeline today.

This announcement marks another milestone for Regent Park, for TCHC and for affordable housing in Toronto.

The revitalization of Regent Park is one of the largest of its kind at almost 70 acres of downtown land.

The site we are on today is part of Phases 4 and 5, a project that could create up to 3,400 new affordable and replacement rental homes if fully funded by all levels of government.

To that end, the investment that Minister Solomon announced today is the latest example of the Government of Canada's long-time support of the City of Toronto and Toronto Community Housing.

Together, the City and TCHC are building and maintaining deeply affordable housing for the people of Toronto.

The federal government has consistently funded that work, keeping people housed across Toronto. I want to express my sincere appreciation to Minister Gregor Robertson and the team at CMHC for their support of this project.

While he could not be here today, we recognize Minister Robertson's commitment to housing affordability for all Canadians, and his efforts to engage the non-profit housing sector as part of the solution.

I also want to thank Minister Solomon and his fellow Toronto MP's. They help advocate for the needs of TCHC communities and our opportunities to do good work together.

They are tireless supporters of the people of Toronto.

The Province of Ontario also deserves credit for their involvement today, providing over \$7 million to prepare Regent Park sites for construction.

We are grateful to Premier Ford, Minister Flack and MPP Smith for their Government's partnership, and we look forward to future collaboration.

At the City, we have a champion for social housing in Mayor Chow, who has fought for every opportunity to improve affordability in Toronto.

Councillor Moise has brought community voice to the planning of this project, ensuring that residents benefit from the economic opportunity of this project.

Thank you, Mayor Chow and Councillor Moise.



Finally, revitalization would not be possible without Tridel, our developer partner. Thank you to Jim Ritchie and the Tridel team for being here today. Tridel has committed over 26.8 million dollars in Community Benefits to Phases 4 and 5.

Their investment guarantees that revitalization builds more than homes. We are building economic opportunity and social mobility for everyone here.

We look forward to working with Tridel, Jim and his team to bring this site to life.

As you can see, a project like this is never a solitary endeavour. It takes partnership, with a common purpose and a shared vision of something better.

I look forward to welcoming you back to this community in the coming years to see what that partnership has built. Thank you.