



Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation
Centre pour les droits à l'égalité au logement

November 25, 2021

Dayna Obaseki, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services
300 City Centre Drive
Mississauga, ON L5B 3C1

Dear Mayor Crombie and members of the Budget Committee,

Re: Budget Committee Agenda Item 9.8 - Apartment Building Standards and Maintenance Pilot Program

I am writing on behalf of the Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA), a non-profit organization working to advance the right to adequate housing. For over thirty years, we have worked tirelessly at the intersection of human rights and housing. CERA advances the right to adequate housing by providing free services to renters facing evictions and human rights violations to remain housed, by providing education and training about housing rights across Canada, and by advancing rights-based housing policy through research and policy advocacy.

We are pleased that the Apartment Building Standards and Maintenance Pilot Program has been expanded to encompass 337 buildings representative of 30,322 units, which will help to improve the living conditions of tenants and preserve Mississauga's rental housing stock. This is an important initiative and we hope it will be approved by the Budget Committee.

The program's objectives will go a long way to ensure that existing housing stock in the city is preserved, particularly affordable rental units that are so desperately needed by those living on low- and moderate-incomes. Preserving the city's apartment rental stock is an effective strategy to meet the housing needs of Mississauga's growing population and should be considered as important as increasing the rental housing stock through new developments.

It is also promising that the program has been costed out to be sustainable, proving that it can be achieved at minimal cost to the City while having significant positive impacts for residents. In particular, the enforcement of consistent property standards will promote tenants' health, safety and well-being. We hope that staffing levels needed to enforce these standards will fulfill the program objectives.

If approved, these new by-laws and changes should be communicated with tenants through engagement programs that raise awareness of their rights and communicates the processes through which complaints can be made and actions taken.

When people live in safe, adequate and affordable homes, they are better able to meaningfully participate in their communities, cities and the economy. Where there is limited affordable

housing options, a city runs the risk of the loss of community vibrance and inclusivity which compromises the economic dynamism of the city and region.

We believe that the efforts being taken in the Apartment Building Standards and Maintenance Pilot Program are a good starting point to ensuring safe, affordable and adequate rental housing choices for Mississauga residents. We look forward to seeing the pilot program expanded and its implementation in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Shadpour".

Bahar Shadpour
Manager of Policy, Communications and Engagement
Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA)

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