



John Tory
Mayor

September 30, 2018

The Hon. Steve Clark
Ministry of Housing / Ministry Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy
17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Clark;

One of the first actions I took when coming into office was striking a Task Force to review Toronto Community Housing's service to its residents.

A significant amount of work has been completed to improve the lives of residents since the Task Force was struck but we know one of the items requested was to improve safety and security in Toronto Community Housing.

I have made many visits to TCHC housing over the years and without exception residents told me of their concerns about security and safety and the threat posed to their well-being by people who insist on engaging in criminal activities. Senator Art Eggleton's task force confirmed this as the number one issue for residents after extensive consultation.

While Toronto Community Housing has worked hard to improve the safety of tenants since that time many tenants still do not feel safe in their homes and communities. That is unacceptable.

Currently, a tenant who is evicted for serious behavioural misconduct, such as drug dealing or domestic violence, is immediately able to apply for rehousing from Toronto Community Housing for affordable rental units or market units.

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In the spring of 2017 I requested the Province of Ontario to amend relevant legislation to ensure the safety and security of tenants in Toronto Community Housing. At that time, I brought forward a motion to City Council to request changes to the *Housing Services Act*, 2011 to ensure that serious criminals evicted for cause cannot return to Toronto Community Housing.

To be clear, my goal in requesting amendments to existing legislation is to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable residents and to ensure that they are properly served in Toronto Community Housing.

I led City Council in requesting the Province of Ontario to amend *The Housing Services Act*, 2011 or other relevant legislation, to allow social housing providers the discretion to refuse to rehouse a tenant who has already been evicted for serious criminal activity. I am making that request again today.

The previous government did not act on this request much to my disappointment.

The priorities for elected representatives should be to work together and ensure the safety of our most vulnerable residents. I am therefore requesting that we work together to make further changes to legislation, including those previously requested, to improve the safety of Toronto Community Housing residents, including legislation to tackle issues such as unit takeovers.

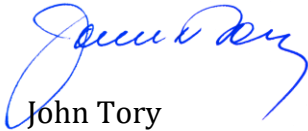
I believe our two governments share a determination to ensure the safety of all our residents, especially seniors and families who live in TCHC.

I believe we have a duty in government to do everything possible to stop the misconduct of a small group of people who are disrupting the lives of law-abiding Toronto Community Housing residents.

We have the ability to send a strong message to criminals that they are not welcome in TCHC and we will not tolerate them threatening the peace and wellbeing of our communities.

I look forward to our continued work together to ensure people are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Tory", with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto