

His Worship John Tory
Mayor, City of Toronto
100 Queen St. W.
City Hall, Second floor, West
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Sir,

We are writing to ask that you use your leadership and influence to ensure that the upcoming Council vote on multi-tenant housing (MTH) regulation is successful.

MTH is deeply affordable accommodation. As one of the last remaining accommodation types that low-income people can afford in our city, there will always be a demand for it. Regulated or not, MTH will continue to grow. And illegal MTH creates challenges for tenants, neighbours, and Council.

Making MTH legal is complex and faces strong opposition from some voters. But with MTH unregulated, there are few tools for enforcement of issues that neighbours want action on, such as yard maintenance, parking, noise, and garbage collection, not to mention the safety of tenants.

This important regulation would pave the way for legal and safe housing for our poorer residents. It would also help neighbours and Councillors in parts of the city where regulation has been absent. It would be unfortunate to miss this opportunity to legalize MTH across the city as has been so successfully done in some areas.

The City of Toronto has failed to offer adequate, much-needed, affordable and deeply affordable housing for many equity-deserving groups. This contradicts the City's Housing TO 2020-2030 Action Plan. It also contradicts the City's equity strategies including the Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy and defined commitments to addressing racism including anti-Black racism, as systemic racism plays a very large role in precarious housing. Furthermore, the City's failure since 1999 to streamline fragmented zoning bylaws has caused MTH tenants in many areas to experience discrimination, violating their rights under Ontario's Human Rights Code. For all of these reasons, the City is obligated to make this regulation happen.

Mr. Mayor, you are more than just one vote on Council. You are Council's leader. Your efforts to build support around policies such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy have made a difference in how Council has viewed and acted on challenging issues.

Your leadership is very much needed to deliver on your housing and equity agendas. We look forward to seeing strong leadership to bring Council to consensus on the critical issue of MTH.

Sincerely,

Bangladeshi Canadian Community Services (BCS)

South Asian Women's Rights Organization (SAWRO)

Bangladesh Centre & Community Services (BCCS)

Afroza Begum	Program Manager	South Asian Community Support Canada
Baldev Mutta	CEO	Punjabi Community Health Services
Barbara Landau and Shahid Akhtar	Co-Chairs	Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims
Hasina Quader	President	Bangladesh Centre & Community Services
Jannatul Islam	Executive Director	Holistic Sustainable Development Network International
Rafia Makbul	Academic Coordinator	Toronto Bangla School
Jessie Tang	Executive Director	Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto (CCNC-TO)
Ryan Chan	Project Lead, Online Hate & Social Media	Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice
Nasima Akter	Executive Director	Bangladeshi Canadian Community Services
Mohamed Boudjenane Maryam Faisal	Spokesperson Anti Hate Initiatives Project Manager	Canadian Arab Federation Council of Agencies Serving South Asians
Shalini Konanur	Executive Director	South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario
Sultana Jahangir	Executive Director	South Asian Women's Rights Organization
Sudip Minhas	Executive Director	Settlement Assistance and Family Support Services