



June 25, 2020

Letter to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Re: Bill 184, Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act, 2020

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing in strong support of Schedule 4, Section 5.2 of Bill 184, Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act, 2020.

This provision, if passed, will support the University of Toronto's housing strategy, which includes an aim to attract and retain world-class faculty and staff. Specifically, the provision will enable the University to offer current and prospective faculty and staff home ownership opportunities on University land as part of competitive employment packages.

Many jurisdictions in the United States as well British Columbia have enacted laws that allow institutions the ability to offer attractive, convenient and competitively priced housing ownership. Essentially, this amendment allows employees to purchase a dwelling unit while the institution retains ownership over the land. This arrangement has the dual benefit of providing lower-cost housing ownership opportunities to employees while also allowing institutions to retain their stock of housing for future generations. Section 5.2 of Schedule 4 of this Bill will allow Ontario institutions similar opportunities as other jurisdictions and thus levels the competitive landscape.

Looking towards the future, the University of Toronto plans to leverage this measure to offer current and prospective faculty and staff lower cost housing ownership options on leased land right in the heart of the City of Toronto. Alongside our Huron-Sussex District Energy investments that will transform the Huron-Sussex community into a low-carbon community, including green laneways and laneway housing, this change, if passed, will contribute to our plans for an affordable and sustainable community in downtown Toronto.

Scott Mabury
Vice President Operations and Real Estate Partnerships
University of Toronto

CC:

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing