

September 12, 2022

Leon McCurdy  
Dispossessed Disabled Artists Demanding Housing (DDADH)

**Re: Letter to the Housing Secretariat: Priority Access to Housing for People with Disabilities**

Dear Leon McCurdy,

Thank you for your letter regarding priority access to affordable housing opportunities for people with disabilities and your request for the City of Toronto to include a disability justice lens in Toronto's housing programs and policies.

We acknowledge the barriers and challenges faced by many Toronto residents in securing affordable, safe and permanent housing. In an effort to address these inequities, the City's actions over the past year have focused on prioritizing housing investments through an equity and climate resilience lens and the need to develop strategies, programs and policies that meet the needs of specific populations, including people with disabilities, as outlined in the [HousingTO 2020-2030 Action Plan](#).

To ensure a disability lens and oversight is provided to the City's housing programs, the Housing Secretariat has established an Accessible Housing Working Group comprised of stakeholder organizations representing the disability community, the development industry, and various City divisions, as well as accessible housing experts, including those with lived experience. The mandate of the Working Group is to explore options and feasibility to increase the percentage of accessible units and units with universal design features delivered through the City's housing programs. The Working Group will be working to develop an expanded scope to include other accessible housing-related matters, as per City Council direction.

We encourage you to contact Arshnoor Khoja at [arshnoor.khoja@toronto.ca](mailto:arshnoor.khoja@toronto.ca), who can work with you to connect with the Accessible Housing Working Group and to provide you with more information regarding the Working Group and how you can participate in providing input to shape the City's housing policies and programs.

Sincerely,



Doug Rollins  
Director, Housing Stability Services  
Housing Secretariat  
City of Toronto

cc: Arshnoor Khoja, Senior Strategic Policy Consultant