

August 6, 2009

## Council approves Housing Opportunities Toronto

City Council has strongly endorsed the *Housing Opportunities Toronto (HOT) Action Plan 2010-2020* which was released in May by Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti, Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, following more than a year of consultations.

Containing 67 actions to be undertaken by the City of Toronto and the federal and provincial governments, *HOT* proposes new investment of \$484 million annually for the next 10 years to help 257,700 households struggling with high housing costs or inadequate accommodation. More than 60,000 jobs would be created or preserved with the full implementation of the Action Plan.

"I am extremely pleased that council has continued to support Toronto's leadership in the area of affordable housing by adopting this plan," Coun. Mammoliti said. "Now the City is positioned to work with its provincial and federal partners to provide people with the housing solutions they need."

A key component is The *Toronto Housing Charter – Opportunity for All*, which will guide council and staff in their efforts to assist those who often face challenges finding affordable housing, from newcomers and single parents to seniors and those with disabilities. It states that all residents have the right to equal treatment in housing without discrimination as provided by the Ontario Human Rights Code.

*HOT* will assist a cross-section of Torontonians, from people living on the street to seniors struggling to maintain and repair their own homes. It will serve as a roadmap to guide government investment, as well as public and private sector activity, while recognizing the limits of the City's financial resources.

*HOT* focuses on upgrading existing private and social housing, building 1,000 new affordable rental homes annually and making home ownership more affordable. It builds on such existing initiatives as the Prosperity Agenda, Mayor's Tower Renewal, the Multi-Residential Apartment Building Strategy and Toronto Community Housing's Real Estate Asset Investment Strategy. A critical component of *HOT* is its housing-first approach, based on the principle that the best way to end homelessness is to assist people to find permanent housing and provide appropriate supports so they can remain in their homes.

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. 2009 marks the 175th anniversary of Toronto's incorporation as a city. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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