

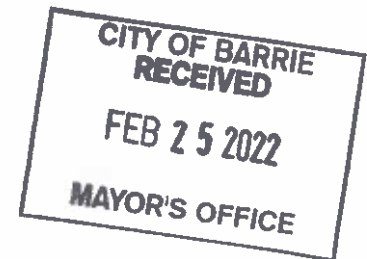


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February 18, 2022

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Deputation re: Housing Affordability Task Force Report

Barrie Housing would like to thank the Housing Affordability Task Force for your comprehensive review of the housing crisis in the City of Barrie and the ensuing report. Also, Barrie Housing would like to thank the City Council for your initial support of the recommendations at January 10, 2021, General Committee meeting. We are especially pleased to see the Task Force's supportive and social housing inclusion in their study and overall plan.

As you know, Canada introduced the National Housing Strategy (NHS) in November 2017, which promised rights-based legislation to implement the government's commitment to the progressive implementation of the right to housing, as guaranteed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The NHS Act brings Canada in line with international standards, which require the right to housing through policies and programs and independent monitoring and access to hearings and effective remedies. It does so through a unique model that does not rely on courts but on alternative, accessible and participatory mechanisms that give rights-holders a meaningful voice and role and provide for investigation, hearings, and recommendations to ensure compliance with the commitment to the progressive realization of the right to housing.

This legislation affirms that the government's housing policy is based on recognizing the right to housing as it is understood in international human rights law. According to the United Nations, this means recognizing that all people have the "right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity," according to the United Nations. It requires the government to implement reasonable policies and programs to ensure the right to housing for all within the shortest possible timeframe with a priority given to vulnerable groups and those in greatest need of housing. It doesn't mean that governments have to house all citizens overnight, but it puts the responsibility on the government, not the individual in a housing crisis, to prevent homelessness.

Barrie Housing firmly believes that the recommendations in this Task Force report support the NHS legislation's ideology and provide opportunities to increase housing affordability within the City of Barrie. This proposal to have dedicated staffing and resources demonstrates the City's commitment to fixing the affordable housing crisis.

We are extremely pleased to see the proposals to expand funding programs that will help to alleviate some of the financial barriers for the development of much-needed supportive and social housing, particularly the "cash-in-lieu of affordable housing" recommendation. Having funds available at the municipal level will make it more accessible for feasibility studies, property purchases and overall development.

For these reasons, Barrie Housing strongly supports the Affordability Task Force's report and recommendations and looks forward to partnering with the City of Barrie on these initiatives.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MDenny-Lusk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mary Anne Denny-Lusk, Hons, BAcc., CPA, CA, CIHCM
Chief Executive Officer