



*August 24 2022*

## **The TAEH and TSN Commends the City of Toronto's Acquisition of 65 Dundas East, and welcomes plan for permanent housing**

The City of Toronto's recent announcement of [the purchase of 65 Dundas East](#) (formerly the Bond Hotel) is a welcome decision that will move us all closer to our collective goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Increasing Toronto's housing stock is crucial for meeting the goals of the [Housing TO 2020-2030 Action Plan](#). The acquisition of 65 Dundas East demonstrates a commendable commitment towards ending homelessness and is an important step towards that goal.

We know that there is an urgent need for the City to make decisive and meaningful decisions, like the acquisition of 65 Dundas East, in response to the ongoing homelessness crisis in Toronto. We also know that the shelter system is at breaking point and that the only real solution to changing the trajectory that homelessness is taking is with affordable and supportive housing. This is why decisions made in the coming months about the use of the 65 Dundas East residence are critically important.

In 2018, the City established a goal to build 18,000 units of supportive housing by 2030, and we are pleased to see that housing with supports are provided for in the plan for 65 Dundas East. The next steps taken, however, will be crucial to ensuring an effective service model is in place for the future tenants at this site. This includes finding the right balance between the apartments dedicated for supportive housing and those available at deeply affordable rents for people not requiring support. The building will also need to be home to people with a range of needs so that a truly "mixed" and vibrant community thrives at 65 Dundas East, and in turn contributes positively to the neighbourhoods around it. Planning for 15% of the new units to be fully accessible already supports this direction.

Working hand-in-hand with [Dixon Hall Neighbourhood Services](#), an experienced and innovative organization, as the City's housing partner promises success. TAEH and TSN look to the City for leadership in translating to our local context an evidence-based plan rooted in best practices to maximize the impact that permanent housing at 65 Dundas East can have.

This is also an opportunity to further develop a "made in Toronto" supportive housing operating model to strategically focus future investments and plans. While we expect the City to use its revenues in new and innovative ways, TAEH and the TSN will continue our advocacy with all levels of government urging them to shoulder their parts of TAEH's [Supportive Housing Growth Plan](#), and to enable the work of increasing affordable housing stock in Toronto.

Both the TAEH and TSN value working in cooperation with the City of Toronto. We know that now is the time to do more, and to do it as quickly and smartly as possible. We will continue to encourage the City of Toronto to focus on integrating housing solutions with enhanced measures to maximize opportunities that support people experiencing homelessness in achieving and maintaining successful housing, health, and well-being. We look forward to supporting the hundreds of community agencies and service providers we collectively represent, and our members with lived experience, in meaningful planning and delivery of permanent housing at 65 Dundas East and beyond.

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[The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness](#) (TAEH) is a collective impact initiative of partners across the city, united in the vision of homelessness being rare, brief, and non-recurring. We are the City's non-Indigenous Community Advisory Board, and co-chair the Toronto Housing and Homelessness Service Planning Forum. Our priorities include ensuring Toronto has enough deeply affordable housing and support services to prevent and end homelessness.

[The Toronto Shelter Network](#) (TSN) is an umbrella organization representing Toronto's 24-hour homelessness service providers, including emergency shelters, respites, and women's 24-hour drop-ins. We champion the best housing outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and strive to enhance the collective capacity and voice of people with lived experience of homelessness and diverse homelessness service providers in Toronto through knowledge sharing and learning, collaborative planning, research, and advocacy.