

His Worship John Tory
Mayor, City of Toronto
100 Queen St. W.
City Hall, Second floor, West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

December 21, 2020

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA), I am writing to convey a concern—and one we are sure that you share—with the current state of homelessness in the City of Toronto.

Adequate housing is a human right, enshrined by the 1948 *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and subsequently reaffirmed in a wide range of additional human rights instruments. Housing as a human right is upheld by the Ontario Human Rights Commission, which recognizes that international law requires Canada to “work towards making sure everyone has access to adequate and affordable housing.”

As the full brunt of winter rapidly approaches, the City must think outside the box to find rapid solutions that can help people *now*—not just in the future. If any of those solutions involve the built environment, the OAA would appreciate the opportunity to be involved as we are confident that the architecture profession can play a role in meeting that challenge.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly or have your staff contact the OAA. As the regulating body for the province’s architecture profession, we can help offer new perspectives and approaches to deal with this worldwide concern that is felt very much here in Toronto.

Regards,



Kathleen Kurtin, OAA
President



Ontario Association
of Architects

111 Moatfield Drive
Toronto, ON M3B 3L6
Canada

416-449-6898
oaamail@oaa.on.ca
oaa.on.ca