

Statement from David Mitchell
Chair, Board of Directors, Toronto Community Housing
Release of the *Report on the Eviction of Al Gosling and the Eviction Prevention Policy of Toronto Community Housing Corporation*

Last October, the Board sought the counsel of the most respected advisor we could find to obtain advice on how we could learn from the events that led to the eviction of Al Gosling. We were honoured when Justice Patrick LeSage agreed to lead an independent, third-party review.

Today, on behalf of the Board, I am making the LeSage Review report available to the public.

Toronto Community Housing deeply regrets Mr. Gosling's eviction and we are very sorry at his subsequent passing. This has profoundly affected our entire organization and been a catalyst for change. Justice LeSage's report provides clear direction on where we need to improve. We will act quickly on those recommendations that we feel will have the biggest impact. Others will require consultations with stakeholders before we can take action.

While we work with staff, the unions, tenants, stakeholder and community partners to develop an implementation plan for the recommendations, we will begin to make immediate improvements to increase direct, face-to-face contact with tenants, provide comprehensive staff training in eviction prevention, simplify processes for tenants, and build stronger relationships with agencies that deliver social services and specialized supports.

The Board is fully confident in the abilities of our recently appointed CEO to lead the organization in implementing changes that achieve lasting and effective solutions. We remain committed to providing the necessary support and oversight to guide the organization and will hold it accountable for results.

The Board will discuss the LeSage Review report and Toronto Community Housing's response at our next meeting on June 29, 2010. This meeting will take place at 246 Sackville Ave. and is open to the public.

On the Board's behalf, I want to thank Justice LeSage and his team for delivering a thorough, forward-looking and valuable report, and thank the tenants, staff and stakeholders who took part in the review and provided input. We take the report seriously, and we are strongly committed to making improvements that will help us to better serve tenants and the people of Toronto.