

How can I get involved?

The Interim Seniors Housing Unit wants to partner with you to make sure this newsletter reflects topics that matter to you, and offers information about your tenancy and your community.

We are looking to create a small editorial committee made up of senior tenants.

If you are interested in joining this committee or want more information, contact us:

- by email to Public.Affairs@torontohousing.ca
- by mail to 931 Yonge St., 7th floor, Toronto, ON M4W 2H2 (Attn: ISHU newsletter)
- by phone at **416-981-4406**

Be a fire and safety ambassador volunteer

In partnership with the Interim Seniors Housing Unit, our Fire Life Safety team is recruiting senior tenants as Fire & Safety Tenant Ambassadors. The ambassadors will conduct regular safety walks and organize educational events with the fire department in our seniors buildings.

If you...

- are a senior living in a Toronto Community Housing seniors building
- would be interested in doing group building walks to identify fire safety issues
- would enjoy partnering with the fire department to run educational events

...then you may be the perfect candidate.

Tell us in 50 words or more why you are interested in this position and how your life skills or previous experience would help you succeed in this role.

Please send your entry by Friday, October 4, 2019 by email to

Sean.Cairns@torontohousing.ca or by mail to 931 Yonge St., 6th floor, Toronto, ON, M4W 2H2 (Attn: Sean Cairns).

You can call these numbers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or reach us at help@torontohousing.ca.

- Client Care Centre **416-981-5500**
- Community Safety Unit **416-921-2323**
- Crime Stoppers **416-222-8477**



Call **416-981-5500** to request this newsletter in an alternate format or language.

Interim Seniors Housing Unit newsletter

Summer 2019

Welcome to our first newsletter!

We are very excited to launch this quarterly newsletter for senior tenants living in Toronto Community Housing's seniors portfolio.

As part of our commitment to regular and proactive communication, this newsletter will keep you informed about what matters to you—your tenancy and your community. You'll find that it includes educational information, helpful hints and tips and news about what's happening around you. We want this newsletter to be valuable for you, so please share your feedback and suggestions!

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City Council approves latest Tenants First report

Tenants First is the City of Toronto's plan for improving the lives of TCHC tenants. It aims to give Toronto Community Housing the right structure, mandate and funding to deliver better homes and be a better landlord.

The latest Tenants First report, approved by City Council in July, calls for the creation of a new Seniors Housing Corporation to operate TCHC's 83 seniors buildings, and for moving TCHC's development function to the City and its real estate agency CreateTO.

The changes will help promote aging in place, quality of life and successful tenancies for Toronto's growing population of seniors, and support the City's efforts to increase Toronto's stock of affordable rental housing.

The City and TCHC have been working together over the summer on a plan for putting these changes in place. This work will continue through the fall. City staff will bring the plan to City Council for approval in 2020. Check out some highlights on page 2.



Did you know?

Between January and June 2019, the Interim Seniors Housing Unit (ISHU) team visited 26 buildings and met with over 650 tenants to talk about the unit's 2019 business plan. Building meetings will start again in the fall.

A message from Joan



During building meetings earlier this year, I asked how you would like to hear about topics that concern you. The number one answer was a newsletter, so I hope you enjoy what we've put together for the first issue! This is another opportunity for us to engage with you, to provide updates, information on programs and services around you, and keep you informed about things like the recent recommendations from the City of Toronto's Tenants First team.

In July, City Council approved a recommendation to create a new Seniors Housing Corporation. The new corporation will operate our 83 seniors buildings by delivering an integrated housing model developed by the City. Since this recommendation was made, seniors have asked "Will the change mean that I could lose my apartment or my subsidy?" The answer is no. Please see the section below for highlights from the Tenants First report and how to get more information.

I look forward to getting out to more buildings soon to talk about the Interim Seniors Housing Unit plan and keep you up-to-date on any news from the City.

Sincerely, Joan White, General Manager
Interim Seniors Housing Unit

Tenants First report — highlights

A new, City-owned Seniors Housing Corporation

- The new corporation will be accountable to City Council. It will have its own board of directors, chief executive officer, funding formula and business plan.
- The new corporation will manage and operate TCHC's 83 seniors buildings by delivering a new integrated service model developed by the City.
- The new model will promote aging in place, better quality of life and successful tenancies. Ten sites will begin delivering the new model in 2020.
- TCHC will still own its 83 seniors buildings and will be responsible for capital repairs for these buildings using existing funding arrangements.
- TCHC will continue to be governed as a City corporation with a smaller housing portfolio and a more focused mandate.
- The City and TCHC will clarify TCHC's core mandate and develop a core mandate of the Seniors Housing Corporation.

Go to toronto.ca/tenantsfirst or email tenantsfirst@toronto.ca to learn more about this report.

Name this newsletter

The new Interim Seniors Housing Unit (ISHU) newsletter needs a name. Send us your suggestions; the name should be short (two to four words) and relate to the seniors portfolio.

One winning submission will receive a \$50 Tim Hortons gift card.

This contest is only open to tenants of Toronto Community Housing.

Contest entries can be sent

- by email to Public.Affairs@torontohousing.ca
- by mail to 931 Yonge St., 7th floor, Toronto, ON M4W 2H2 (Attn: ISHU newsletter)

Submit your entry by Friday, October 11, 2019. The winning name will be selected by the ISHU team.



Free supports and services

The Advocacy Centre for the Elderly (ACE)

ACE is a community-based legal clinic for low income seniors. The clinic provides services about elder abuse, government pensions, mental health and more.

ACE is funded through Legal Aid Ontario and is the first legal clinic in Canada to specialize in the legal problems of seniors. Visit acelaw.ca or call **416-598-2656** for more information.

North York Community House (NYCH)

NYCH provides newcomer seniors with a number of opportunities to learn new skills, express themselves and connect with their community. Current sessions include groups for the Russian, Spanish and Tamil communities.

Visit nych.ca/seniors-groups or call **416-784-0920** for more information.

Events in your area

Computer classes for seniors—a Toronto Public Library (TPL) pilot program

TPL is starting a pilot program in late September for seniors who want to improve their computer skills.

This six week program will offer classes and practice sessions that introduce seniors with little or no computer experience to the skills needed to use the computer and internet effectively.

Applications for this program will be available in mid-August.

To learn more about this program, contact the participating branches:

- Bridlewood - **416-396-8960**
- Don Mills - **416-395-5710**
- Deer Park - **416-393-7657**
- Eatonville - **416-394-5270**
- Jane-Sheppard - **416-395-5966**
- McGregor Park - **416-396-8935**