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Toronto Community Housing



# insidehousing

news from Toronto Community Housing  
Volume 1, Issue 9

## CEO's Message



Dear stakeholders,

In the six weeks since I joined Toronto Community Housing, I have met with many stakeholders, partners, residents, and staff. I have visited more than 80 communities across the city—in some cases, with media alongside.

I am learning the Canadian way on the job, and quickly. I have seen the important work our frontline staff are doing, and heard from residents about what matters to them: clean, well-maintained housing, a safe place to live, and helpful service when they need repairs. I have visited communities in the aftermath of the recent gun violence and recognize the need for all partners—Toronto Community Housing, the police, the City, community partners, government, and our residents—to make all our communities safe.

And, as you will read in this issue, I have moved quickly to fill executive vacancies and have put in place a larger executive leadership team that will drive change and be better connected to frontline staff and our residents.

Along with our entire team, I look forward to working with our many partners and stakeholders to strengthen Toronto Community Housing's ability to deliver quality housing and services to residents, and provide value in everything we do.

Gene

Read Gene's statement regarding the incident on [Danzig Street](#)

## Inside

- [Executive appointments](#)
- [New partnership at 10 Glen Everest benefits tenants](#)
- [Affordable Housing Working Group invites input from the public](#)
- [Take our Guest Policy Survey](#)

## Executive appointments

On July 25, Gene Jones, president and CEO, and Bud Purves, chair of the board of directors, announced [four new appointments](#) to Toronto Community Housing's executive team. The new appointments are:

- [Jason Gorel](#) as Chief Financial Officer
- [Anand Maharaj](#) as Vice President of Human Resources
- [Greg Spearn](#) as Chief Development Officer
- [Michelle Wong](#) as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary

## New partnership at 10 Glen Everest benefits tenants

Toronto Community Housing looks for opportunities to connect tenants to the services they need. Now, through a new space at 10 Glen Everest Road, we are taking an innovative approach to providing on-site services in a family building.

Starting on June 15, staff from [Warden Woods Community Centre](#) and Booth Support Services, operated by the [Salvation Army](#), have been providing a range of services on alternate days, including crisis intervention, eviction prevention, referrals to medical treatment, and informal and spiritual counselling.

These services are important to tenants with mental and physical health issues, who will benefit from the independence that on-site services will give them

Renovations for the new space in the 350-unit building were funded using 2011 Community Management Plan funds under Toronto Community Housing's Mental Health Strategy.

## Affordable Housing Working Group invites input from the public

On July 3, 2012 Councillor Ana Bailão invited key members of the housing and government sectors to discuss ideas and share insights about the proposed sale of 706 single-family properties owned by Toronto Community Housing. The full-day event held at the University of Toronto included guest speakers from a wide range of housing authorities and organizations, including the Chicago Housing Authority, Habitat for Humanity Canada and the Wellesley Institute, who discussed numerous ideas including working with government, providing shared services for tenants with mental health needs and affordable home ownership.

The following week, the public was asked to join the discussion about the future of the standalone properties at a forum held at the Toronto Reference Library. There, members of the public shared their perspectives and suggestions about what Toronto Community Housing should do with the stand-alone properties.

In the fall, Councillor Bailão and the Affordable Housing Working Group will publish a report with their recommendations to City Council. For more information about the working group, you can visit <http://www.toronto.ca/affordablehousing/>

## Take our Guest Policy survey

Toronto Community Housing is developing a new policy to help tenants know their rights and responsibilities when they have guests staying with them in their units. The policy will help protect tenants and their subsidies, and applies to all rent-geared-to-income households. It is required by law under the new Housing Services Act, 2011.

To have your say on the new Guest Policy, please complete our survey. The survey has six questions and should about five minutes to complete. It is available until July 30, 2012 at [www.torontohousing.ca/draft\\_guest\\_policy](http://www.torontohousing.ca/draft_guest_policy).

## Contact us

If you have any thoughts or questions about what you have read please feel free to contact:

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