Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness welcomes the new City Emergency Housing Program



December 18, 2020: The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness

(TAEH) is in strong support of the new actions approved by City Council today to focus action and resources on creating over 600 new homes with support for people currently experiencing homelessness within the next 12 weeks.

"The TAEH welcomes this urgently needed program and we know it will end homelessness for a significant amount of people," said **Mark Aston, Chair**, <u>Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness</u> (TAEH). "The Alliance has long advocated for housing solutions to homelessness, and to improving our City's ability to respond in ways that get us closer to our collective goal of homelessness becoming rare, brief and non-recurring in Toronto."

Today also saw Council approve the creation of the Housing and Homelessness Action Table, with representation from necessary provincial ministries, local health authorities, University Health Network, the United Way, and relevant community leaders including the TAEH.

Kira Heineck, Executive Lead, Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness, adds "we are encouraged by this continued rapid action and commitment of City Council and staff to moving housing solutions to homelessness forward. We are pleased to be named in today's plan as one of the City's key community partners to convene as many of the resources and strategies possible to make the Emergency Housing Program a success."

The TAEH will also continue its advocacy with the provincial and federal governments to increase their role and support in an intergovernmental, shared approach to ending homelessness in Toronto.

"Toronto currently includes over 10,000 people experiencing homelessness, the largest population in Ontario and Canada. These are people of all ages, including youth, and families at great health and safety risks, only made more acute with COVID-19. All orders of government have committed to ending chronic homelessness within the next 10 years and the Province and the federal government must follow the lead of Toronto today," says Aston.

Mark Aston, Chair TAEH and Kira Heineck, Executive Lead TAEH are available for media interviews.

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About the TAEH

<u>The Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness</u> (TAEH) is a collective impact initiative committed to achieving our vision of zero chronic and episodic homelessness in Toronto.

Media Contact: Kira Heineck, TAEH 416.529.7521 kira@taeh.ca