

# Preserving Affordable Housing: The Neighbourhood Land Trust and YWCA Toronto Partner to Own and Operate Former TCHC Homes

April 4<sup>th</sup> 2021

The City of Toronto and Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) has transferred 81 single-family homes and small buildings in Toronto's west end to The Neighbourhood Land Trust (NLT). The NLT has partnered with YWCA Toronto to operate this unique social housing portfolio and ensure that it forever remains affordable housing.

"The Neighbourhood Land Trust is honoured to partner with YWCA Toronto to steward and manage this important social housing portfolio on behalf of communities across Toronto's west end. Through our unique community ownership model, the Land Trust will ensure that these homes are preserved and protected as permanently affordable rental housing, while also providing tenants new opportunities to participate in decisions about their housing and their community."

*- Ayal Dinner, Board President, The Neighbourhood Land Trust*

The NLT and YWCA Toronto have expertise in providing dignified affordable housing and responsive property management services, and are committed to offering tenants timely and efficient property management and customer service.

"YWCA Toronto is proud to partner with The Neighbourhood Land Trust and the City to offer affordable housing opportunities for existing tenants and women and gender diverse individuals and their families. As one of Canada's leading housing providers for women and gender diverse people, we know how critical access to housing is in advancing gender and racial equity. We are grateful for this partnership and excited about the prospect of advancing women-focused housing."

*- Heather M. McGregor, CEO, YWCA Toronto*

Existing tenant relationships for the 153 individual units will remain the same, with no rental increases or changes in tenancy except as required by existing RGI agreements or as prescribed by the Residential Tenancies Act. While the NLT will own the buildings and be responsible for capital repairs and improvements, YWCA Toronto will operate them and act as landlord.

A Tenants' Advisory Committee has been created to ensure tenant interests are represented in the management of their housing, and tenants also are able to participate in governance of the Land Trust by joining committees and becoming board members.

“We are all very excited to be a part of this transition, and are glad that these units will remain in the Community as they are integrated into the NLT because we are invested in our homes and can see that NLT and YWCA Toronto also feel that this investment is worth preserving.”

- *Anna Marie Hubbard, Member, Tenants' Advisory Committee*

This initiative advances gender equity by providing critical housing access to women and gender diverse individuals and their families. Upon turn-over of units, YWCA Toronto will provide new City-funded rent geared to income (RGI) housing subsidies to women and gender diverse individuals and their families on the City of Toronto's Centralised Affordable Housing Waiting List.

The NLT and YWCA Toronto will assure that this affordable housing is well maintained. The NLT has extensively studied the condition of the portfolio and created a detailed plan to bring the condition of all buildings up to industry standards as well as significantly improve the environmental sustainability and accessibility of the portfolio.

In addition, through partnerships with Building Up, Toronto's leading social contractor, the partners will ensure that investments made to repair and improve the homes will also provide local employment to a broad range of equity seeking community members.

This historic initiative shows the power of the Community Land Trust model to preserve affordable housing in communities and support more equitable local economies.

#### About The Neighbourhood Land Trust

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The Neighbourhood Land Trust is a not-for-profit charitable organisation that owns and manages land in a community ownership model. NLT partners with qualified charitable social housing partners, who provide high quality affordable housing, supportive housing, and community economic development programs. NLT is dedicated to ensuring the perpetual affordability of all properties which it owns. The NLT is the charitable arm of the Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust (PNLT). Learn more at [pnlt.ca](http://pnlt.ca).

#### About YWCA Toronto

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YWCA Toronto is committed to a radical transformation of society where all women, girls and gender diverse people can thrive. We have a long history of creating positive change in our community. As the city's largest multi-service women's organisation, we help women escape violence, move out of poverty, and access safe, affordable housing for themselves and their children. We work tenaciously to break down barriers that hold individuals back from achieving equity. Annually, our Association serves over 13,000 people including trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary community members.

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