

# Right to Housing

# in Toronto

## **A Call for a Moratorium on Encampment Evictions**

December 3, 2020

To:

John Tory, Mayor of the City of Toronto

Mary-Anne Bédard, General Manager of Shelter, Support & Housing Administration, City of Toronto

Janie Romoff, General Manager of Parks, Forestry & Recreation, City of Toronto

Dear Mayor Tory, Ms. Bédard and Ms. Romoff,

The Right to Housing Toronto has been hearing from organizations working on the ground with residents of encampments that the City of Toronto is planning to clear some encampments in the coming weeks.

As a network committed to ensuring that the City of Toronto honours its commitment to the progressive realization of the right to housing, we are writing to voice our grave concern with this approach. As outlined in R2HTO's recent [Encampments Rights Review](#), the City should not be forcibly evicting encampment residents under any circumstances.

We urge the City to provide safe, adequate housing for all encampment residents and, where that is not possible, safe and adequate shelter that respects the human rights and dignity of encampment residents. In the absence of that, the City must not forcibly evict encampment residents and instead ensure the safety of all residents in a way that respects their human rights and promotes the human right to housing by providing winter survival gear, water, sanitation and other necessary services. We also encourage the City to consult and work with encampment residents to find appropriate and permanent housing solutions for them.

As always, we are available as is helpful to meet with City staff to provide any assistance and advice regarding working with encampment residents in a way that respects their rights and promotes the right to housing.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Right to Housing in Toronto

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Accommodation

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