

## **Housing**

### **Recent actions by the Committee**

A letter was sent out to Mayor John Tory and all the City Councillors applauding the Council's adoption of the motion "Implementing the Toronto Modular Housing Initiative as an Urgent Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic" which includes the fast tracking of the construction of new supportive housing for shelter use.

We also encouraged them to consider a variation of the Toronto Modular Housing Initiative that does not require the associated social services, to serve other City of Toronto constituents in need of affordable rental housing. The list would include, but would not be limited to, low income wage earners and families; as well as, women aged 75 to 95 years who are being evicted from older apartment building to making way for new condominium developments. We believe that it is the speed and cost effectiveness of building Modular Housing complexes that makes it attractive as a form of affordable housing.

Before COVID-19 there was a proposal for a tax surcharge to fund transportation and affordable housing. We assume any funds raised at this time will be directed to COVID-19 debts.

We suggested another strategy, albeit a temporary one, for increasing the affordable rental housing inventory, would be to encourage developers to follow the lead of Times Group Corporation, to lease to the City, vacant buildings such houses/apartment buildings slated for demolition prior to the "shovel ready" development stage.

As well, we, the University Women's Club of North York, support the Vacant Homes Tax. We were disappointed that the Vacant Homes Tax, introduced earlier this year, in draft form by Councillor Ana Bailao, did not make it into this year's budget cycle. It is our belief that the Vacant Homes Tax would not only raise additional revenue for the City, but also encourage owners of "vacant properties" wishing to avoid paying this tax, to rent out their properties; thereby, adding to the available, hopefully affordable, housing stock.

A few UWCNY members met with Councillors Ana Bailao and Brad Bradford to discuss affordable housing issues

Ana Bailao is scheduled to be the Speaker at the October 2020 UWCNY Meeting.