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## FEBRUARY 2020 UPDATE

from your Member of Parliament, Julie Dzerowicz

### HELPING TORONTONIANS ACCESS SAFE & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing affordability and affordable housing are top priorities for the federal Liberal government. This piece will highlight some of the key actions our federal government has taken to improve the housing situation in Davenport. Though **we still have a lot more work to do**, there have been significant investments in Toronto Community Housing (TCH), in co-ops, and in housing supports to Canadians.

In April 2019, our federal government flowed \$1.3 billion to the City of Toronto to support the renovation of over 58,000 affordable TCH units. These investments will ensure that community housing units continue to be healthy living places for residents and their families. The monies will be spent on structural repairs and upgrades to boilers, plumbing, air conditioners, and more. Notices of impending upgrades have already started to be delivered to TCH units in our riding and some upgrades are already underway.

Our federal government has also renewed rental assistance available to all federal co-ops in Davenport including Perth, Primrose, and Wood Tree. This is an important program that provides rental assistance to co-ops and non-profits 6 months before their operating agreements end.

Whereas an average 2-bedroom unit in Toronto is approximately \$2,500, a 2-bedroom unit in a Davenport TCH or co-op is in the range of \$1,201 to \$1,240. Programs that ensure significantly more affordable spaces for individuals, couples and families - like TCH and co-ops - are at the core of the federal government's National Housing Strategy.

A number of groups have approached my office about their interest in creating more co-op spaces in Davenport. I have directed them to the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC) which is available to provide support in creating new co-ops. If you are a group interested in creating new co-op housing in Davenport, kindly contact my office and ask for Paul de Freitas, my senior manager.



January was Tamil Heritage Month. A huge shout-out to the residents and leaders at the Tamil Co-op on Wade Ave for all they do to build community and their contributions to Davenport and our city!

#### Canada - Ontario Housing Benefit

On December 19, 2019, our federal government announced a \$1.4 billion partnership with the province to fund the Canada - Ontario Housing Benefit.

This program will directly provide a rent supplement (on average \$2,500 per year) to recipient households, and will target those most in housing-need: low-income families, survivors of domestic violence, persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness, Indigenous persons, seniors, and people with disabilities.

For more information, please visit my website [juliedzerowicz.ca](http://juliedzerowicz.ca)

# DAVENPORT STORIES: TORONTO HOUSING



## Meet Lilia and Pedro.

Pedro settled in Toronto in 1999, having fled the civil war in Angola. He applied for and was granted refugee status. Lilia is from Brazil. She studied law and worked in Brazil's public service. Lilia met Pedro when he was visiting Brazil. They married and Lilia moved to Canada to start a family with him, which has now grown to 5.

Both Pedro and Lilia are involved in the local community. Pedro works full-time at St. Michael's Hospital, sits on the local parent council at his children's school, and is active in the Angolan and Portuguese communities in Toronto. Lilia is a full-time mother of three, and does occasional teaching at a local school in Davenport where her children attend.

I went to speak with them about the TCH funding and its impact on their family.

Lilia and Pedro moved into one of the Toronto Community Housing units in Davenport approximately 10 years ago. They love the community and are grateful to live in affordable housing. They had heard of the federal partnership with the City of Toronto and the support of \$1.3 billion into TCH; and, while others in their complex have received notices for upgrades and repairs, they are hoping for larger improvements to the ventilation system and laundry machines in the complex where they live.

More than 58,000 affordable housing units will benefit from the partnership between the City of Toronto and the federal government; TCH units will have improved living conditions, safety, accessibility, and comfort for thousands of families while becoming more energy efficient and continuing to be affordable places to live.

## National Housing Strategy

Introduced in 2017 by the federal government, the National Housing Strategy will help ensure that Canadians have affordable housing that meets their needs. This investment of more than \$11.2 billion over 11 years will help build, renew, and repair Canada's stock of affordable housing through a variety of initiatives.

Key elements include:

- A renewed partnership between the Government and provinces and territories to better support key housing priorities
- A new \$5 billion National Housing Fund to address critical housing issues and better support vulnerable citizens
- Targeted support for Northern housing
- Targeted housing support for Indigenous Peoples not living on reserve
- Renewed and expanded federal investments to combat and prevent homelessness
- Making more federal lands available for the development of affordable housing
- Expanded funding to strengthen CMHC's housing research activities

For more information, please visit my website [juliedzzerowicz.ca](http://juliedzzerowicz.ca) and search for the National Housing Strategy summary document.

## New Refugee Shelter in Toronto

To alleviate the pressure on the shelter system many vulnerable Canadians rely on, and ensure that those seeking refuge in Canada still have access to temporary housing, our federal government committed \$45 million to the City of Toronto in May of 2019, in addition to the \$26 million already provided to the City since June 2018. In November 2019, Toronto opened a new refugee shelter to house 200 refugees, ensuring that the added pressure in our shelter system by refugees has been largely alleviated. Learn more at [bit.ly/2Qutt6L](http://bit.ly/2Qutt6L)