

# Supportive Housing: How much does Toronto need; how are we going to get it?

Monday, May 26, 2008

Toronto City Hall, Committee Room #2

1.30 to 4 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free community forum on supportive housing in Toronto, co-sponsored by the **Wellesley Institute** and **Housing Action Now**. A panel including supportive housing residents, supportive housing providers and housing experts will launch the session, with plenty of time for discussion. Learn about current research, issues and challenges; add your questions, comments and ideas. Recommendations from the forum will be forwarded to the City of Toronto's 10-year housing strategy, along with the provincial and federal governments.

Supportive housing combines brick-and-mortar with services to meet the physical and/or mental health needs of residents. Very little new supportive housing has been created in Toronto in recent years, despite a growing need. In its 2008 budget, the federal government announced \$110 million for mental health and housing pilot projects in several cities, including Toronto. The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care has transferred funding responsibility for support services to Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). The City of Toronto's proposed 10-year housing plan (called Housing Opportunities Toronto) calls for more supportive housing, but doesn't offer much detail.

Panelists include:

- **The Dream Team** (supportive housing residents who will present their new research on the value of supportive housing to residents and the surrounding neighbourhoods);
- **Dr. Stephen Hwang** (epidemiologist at the Centre for Research in Inner City Health on his current research on the health status of supportive housing residents);
- **Peggy Birnberg** (Executive Director of Houselink, a supportive housing provider, on Toronto's supportive housing needs and the challenges facing new development);
- **Dr. Bonnie Kirsh** (University of Toronto research expert on her current research on supportive housing issues and solutions);
- **Dr. Katherine Boydell** (Hospital for Sick Children research expert on her current research on the critical needs of families and children for supportive housing).

Please confirm your participation for this forum by e-mailing [grace@wellesleyinstitute.com](mailto:grace@wellesleyinstitute.com)

