

November 7, 2002

NOTICE OF MOTION

TWO-YEAR RENT FREEZE

Moved By: Councillor Michael Walker

Seconded By: Councillor

WHEREAS Between 1995 and 2001 the average rent for all CMA rental units across the City of Toronto have increased by 29 percent while Ontario's Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased by only 12.8 percent; and

WHEREAS little to no affordable rental housing has been constructed in the City of Toronto since the implementation of the Tenant Protection Act in 1998; and

WHEREAS 44 percent of tenant households spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing and 22 percent of tenant households spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing; and

WHEREAS visits to local Food Banks has reached all-time highs while over the last five to seven years donations have not increased correspondingly due to lack of discretionary income; and

WHEREAS a growing number of tenants, particularly seniors and single-parent families are consistently faced with the choice of rent or food; and

WHEREAS as a member of the Group of Eight nations, it is shameful that this situation continues and continues to get worse; and

WHEREAS the City of Toronto has advocated for a 'costs no-longer borne' regulation, demolition controls, the restoration of real Rent Controls and a legislated Rent Roll Back; and

WHEREAS Tenants cannot afford to wait for a new provincial government to introduce fairer legislation while rents continue to spiral out of control and beyond their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS the New Democratic Party of Ontario advocates a two-year Rent Freeze to allow for a return to an updated Rent Control Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Toronto petition the Provincial Government to Freeze Rents for 2 years until there has been a fair review of the Tenant Protection Act and a leveling of the playing field in landlord-tenant relations;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council continue to lobby the Provincial Government and the Opposition parties to adopt and publicly endorse this Two-Year Rent Freeze;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the necessary provisions of Chapter 27 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code be waived to permit introduction and debate of this Notice Of Motion at the meeting of Council to be held on November 26, 27 and 28 2002.