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# Toronto Community Housing approves sale of 706 homes

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File image of the Toronto Community Housing offices. CITYNEWS.



Video  
[TCHC eyes sell off of over 700 homes](#)

The Toronto Community Housing Corporation has approved the sale of 706 homes and will use the proceeds to upgrade and

repair existing properties, TCHC director Frances Nunziata told CityNews on Friday.

"We are looking at selling [the homes] to generate revenue," Nunziata said. "The proceeds of the sale will be put towards maintenance and upgrades. Any tenants that are going to be displaced with this will be housed in other units."

Nunziata says the TCHC needs \$650 million to upgrade and maintain existing buildings. The potential sale would fetch about \$335 million.

"It's not fair to our tenants to live in the conditions that they are," she added.

But news of the proposed sell-off was met with quick and vocal opposition at a meeting Friday. Opponents argued the decision has been made hastily, without exploring other options.

Coun. Raymond Cho said there are thousands of people on the TCHC waiting list who would suffer as a result of the decision.

"I'm really shocked," he said. "I don't think Toronto Community Housing should take this route. They shouldn't sell the 706 houses. There are 70,000 families waiting to get in. It may take ten years. Now we are selling off to repair? I think this board should go to the Parliament building in Ottawa and make a good deputation and they should go to the provincial government."

The TCHC decision still requires a vote in city hall, likely in late November, after which the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing would make a ruling.

Beric German of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee says the provincial and federal levels of government are ultimately to blame.

"The federal government and provincial government are not investing in public housing," he stressed. "What's happening here is that public housing is being under funded and as it's being under funded it is deteriorating."

"We need a national public housing program and we need it because without it people will not be able to afford their housing, and homelessness will be everywhere."

Tenants were understandably worried about the future.

"I think it's a sad day. This option of losing the homes should not be an option," said Antoinette Wassilyn. "I don't think management [is] looking at our needs. I'm really worried. I'm handicapped. What about the seniors? What are we going to do?"

*On Friday night the TCHC issued a release on its website, summarizing the Board's decision. You can [read it here](#).*

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