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# TORONTO STAR

Greater Toronto  
**Ford backs off on TCHC sale cash**

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284 words  
11 June 2011  
The Toronto Star  
TOR  
ONT  
GT2  
English  
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Mayor Rob Ford now says the proceeds from the sale of **Toronto Community Housing Corporation** houses should be solely used to repair TCHC apartment buildings and not, as he suggested Thursday, divided between the TCHC and the city.

TCHC interim managing director Case Ootes pitched the idea to sell as many as 928 single-family houses as a way to raise more than \$400 million toward a repair backlog of \$650 million. At a news conference Thursday morning, Ootes called the growing backlog a "crisis."

But Ford, addressing reporters' questions Thursday afternoon, said some of the sale money could be put toward repairs and some toward the city's \$774 million budget hole.

In a subsequent memo to members of his executive committee, Ford's office said he "fully agrees" with Ootes.

"It's good to know that he's big enough to know when he's wrong. But for those of us who are unsure about his judgment, it just tells you why we are," said left-leaning Councillor Adam Vaughan (Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina).

"He makes policy up on the fly. And for the people who live in those homes, they got a good shot of anxiety for a day and a bit while the mayor mused about their living arrangements publicly."

The provincial government has a veto over any sale of public **housing**.

A spokesperson for municipal affairs and **housing** minister Rick Bartolucci said Friday that Bartolucci cannot yet offer an opinion on a proposal that has not been submitted.

But the spokesperson, Adrian Kupesic, also signalled that Premier Dalton McGuinty's Liberals are open to Ootes' idea.

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