

July 26, 2022

## WINDSOR ESSEX COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION (CHC)- BOARD OF DIRECTORS NAMES NEW CEO, CYNTHIA SUMMERS

After a thorough and structured recruitment process, the Windsor Essex Community Housing Corporation (CHC) Board of Directors is proud to announce that **Cynthia Summers**, BA, MSW, RSW, has accepted the position of CEO to begin on August 22, 2022.

Summers has a proven commitment to CHC's core values and was responsible for transformational change in Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) with a mandate to protect and ensure housing stability, equity, and inclusion for the 113,000 tenants living in TCHC, the largest social housing provider in Canada.

Cynthia, who is currently **The Commissioner of Housing Equity** at Toronto Community Housing (TCHC), was the Inaugural Lead of the Office of the Commissioner of Housing Equity (OCHE), reporting directly to the Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) Board of Directors with accountability to the City of Toronto City Council. In this role, Summers developed and articulated a vision for service excellence, culminating in creating the Office of the Commissioner of Housing Equity service delivery model, which is now considered a best practice in tenant engagement.

Cynthia is an expert in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). As an Adjunct Professor, she continues to teach administrative law and how to use ADR effectively to work with vulnerable persons in the School of Business at Humber College.

Before her work in the City of Toronto, Cynthia had been appointed by both the federal government to the **Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada** to determine refugee eligibility for newcomers to Canada and by the Ontario provincial government to serve as a **Member of the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal** (now the Landlord and Tenant Board). Her knowledge of administrative justice, procedural fairness and, in particular, issues related to rental arrears, eviction and social housing will help CHC move forward and realign services to bring our residents to the forefront of our work.

In partnership with both a dedicated Board and staff, community partners, City of Windsor Housing and Children's Services and the elected Mayors and Councillors from Windsor and the County of Essex, Cynthia will undoubtedly be a great leader for CHC and advocate for the people we serve in Windsor and Essex County.

The Board would like to thank Jim Steele, who retired after 30 years of service as the CEO. His contributions cover many projects, and we applaud his leadership and vision in managing the corporation through the pandemic and moving the organization as a builder and developer of Ontario's Largest Passive House Residential Building, Meadowbrook Place, 3100 Meadowbrook Lane.

###