



# Ottawa ACORN

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July 5th 2018

Dear Timbercreek Asset Management,

I am writing on behalf of all tenants in Herongate affected by this second eviction, or as you like to call it, "Relocation". This sudden decision by Timbercreek seems to suggest plans were already in the works, and that "visioning meetings" were only window dressing to appease tenants.

While some of the conditions offered in the eviction letters have been improved somewhat due to ACORN members' efforts in 2015/2016, the fact remains that low income tenants are being pushed out of the neighbourhood, again. For some who moved into this area after the first eviction, this will be the second forced move within 3 years. People with low incomes are already hard pressed with increases for food, transportation, heat, and health costs, while their incomes, especially if they are on fixed benefits, are not rising to meet those costs. The stress of moving, and the additional costs they will face with new leases in newer premises will put additional strains on vulnerable families struggling just to get by. It doesn't have to be that way.

People in Herongate chose to live there for good reasons. There were large, comfortable townhouses, suitable for larger families and reasonably priced. Certain ethnic groups took comfort in the fact many of them lived close by for help, and family celebrations. Until recently they were adequately maintained for the most part. Then in the last two years, the telltale signs of neglect started to appear, similar to what happened with the first area of Herongate to be demolished. Like the first group of Tenants, this second group does not want to move, but would like to stay in Herongate, because it is their home.

The tenants of Herongate do not want "relocation", as it disrupts family and social life, and this is of particular interest to immigrant families new to Canada. They very much

need close family and community support while navigating government rules, and learning about Canada. Relocation would scatter them to the four winds, creating great anxiety about job and school changes, and not having the supports they are used to having.

What tenants do want, is to have proper repairs completed for their units, not demolition by neglect. If units can't be fixed in an economic manner, then tenants would like you to replace their units in the new development. Specifically, tenants want rental replacements where the new development includes units that are the same size and price as the previous units and are offered back to the original tenants first. ACORN members, tenants and allies want Timbercreek and the City to reset the secondary plan process so that tenants of Herongate can be properly engaged with the future of their neighbourhood.

The tenants of Herongate want to stay as part of the community, and they would like Timbercreek to be a Community builder, not a Community Buster. ACORN members who are tenants of Herongate would like to meet with Timbercreek to work out a plan, whereby current Herongate tenants get more input into the development of Herongate, that will allow the people to stay if they want to, and help build a healthy, affordable, community.

As times for decisions are fast approaching, we would appreciate a response from Timbercreek Asset Management, within 2 weeks, by July 19th, 2018.

Thank you in advance, for your prompt consideration.

Sincerely,

Mavis Finnamore

ACORN member, Previous South Ottawa ACORN Chair & Evicted Herongate Tenant

Please contact Ottawa ACORN at [ottawa@acorncanada.org](mailto:ottawa@acorncanada.org)

Staff Contact: Ashley Reyns - 613 746 5999 ext 3 - 404 McArthur Ave, Ottawa, Ontario, K1K 1G8