

90 Dunn Avenue

Social Medicine Initiative - Frequently Asked Qs

Who is building the development?

The City of Toronto is the developer for the site at 90 Dunn (formerly 150 Dunn) and is leasing it from University Health Network (UHN). UHN provided land that it owns in Parkdale to realise a vision of building social medicine housing for patients. All three levels of government have provided funding and resources to the project, with funds coming from the [Rapid Housing Initiative](#) and the [National Housing Strategy](#) as well.

When will people move in?

The building will be tenanted gradually, and 24/7 supports will be provided onsite to meet residents' needs. Move-in is intended to begin early Fall 2024.

Who is the housing operator?

Fred Victor has been selected as the housing and support services provider at 150 Dunn Ave. Fred Victor is a multi-service charitable organization that works to improve the health, income and housing stability of people experiencing poverty and homelessness in Toronto

Who will the tenants be?

Tenant identification is a collaborative process with UHN, the City, and Fred Victor. New homes will be dedicated to people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including seniors, women, Indigenous residents, racialized people, people with disabilities and others.

What is the United Health Network (UHN) Social Medicine Initiative?

Positive health outcomes are not just biological, they are also impacted by a variety of social factors, for example whether people are able access affordable housing, participate in supportive community services like child care, and gain employment with adequate incomes. The Social Medicine Program at UHN is focused on integrating the social determinants of health into care delivery and better partnering with community organizations to improve the quality of care for disadvantaged populations. UHN owns the land on which the housing is being built.

Will there be nurses, peer workers, educators, etc. on site who work with the tenants?

The selection of these hires is being made by Fred Victor along with UHN. The social medicine model introduces harm reduction, primary care, peer workers, Indigenous programming, community health workers, a standing tenant-led advisory council, and more. These supports are in addition to the standard supportive housing practices such as food provision, economic supports, and eviction prevention. Fred Victor has begun the hiring process, and you can find some of the available positions on their website: <https://www.fredvictor.org/about-us/join-our-team/>.

How do you apply for housing there? Is there a contact?

There is not an application process or waitlist for this building. Tenants will be identified using a prioritization-based approach to connect people experiencing homelessness to this permanent housing opportunity. This approach will utilize City processes such as [By Name List](#) and [Priority Access to Housing and Supports \(PATHS\)](#) direct-matching process.

The By Name List is a system to help prioritise and match access to housing. This list is updated in real time as part of the City's centralized intake process for making housing offers to those most in need.

The Priority Access to Housing and Supports (PATHS) direct-matching process is used to offer housing and support opportunities. This system helps to ensure equity-deserving groups who are overrepresented in our homelessness system are connected with the housing and supports that best meet their needs, as City staff review the By Name List to identify people who meet eligibility and prioritization criteria for available units from housing provider partners. Different providers offer types of housing suitable for different groups of people.

Once someone eligible is identified, City staff reach out to the service provider(s) currently supporting the household, primarily through workers at City-funded shelters and street outreach services. If the household is interested and wants to accept the housing offer, an assessment is completed and reviewed to refer them. The housing provider may then conduct their own assessment to confirm the match before they proceed with intake.

UHN will be involved with transforming this process to help identify patients who are eligible for housing and have complex health challenges. This model aims to better meet the needs of those who are experiencing deep vulnerability.

What is modular housing?

Modular housing is small scale, prefabricated housing that is built in sections. It is constructed partially or completely off-site in a manufacturing facility, then transported to a property and assembled there, like building blocks. A completed example of modular housing in Toronto can be found at 321 Dovercourt Road.

What is West Neighbourhood House's role in this?

West Neighbourhood House is not involved in choosing the housing provider. West Neighbourhood House received funding from United Way of Greater Toronto to encourage peer-led community involvement and host learning opportunities for residents, neighbours, and stakeholders in the South Parkdale area. The focus is on spreading awareness about the significance of supportive housing. Please see the City's Addendum to the Housing Provider RFP [here](#).

What is the Parkdale Planning Table?

The South Parkdale Neighbourhood Planning Table is one of the City's [Neighbourhood Planning Tables](#). There are 15 planning tables Citywide that represent the 31 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs). They identify local priorities, planned solutions, and create partnerships for stronger neighbourhoods. The Parkdale Planning Table is facilitated by [Parkdale People's Economy](#), a network of 30+ Parkdale-based organizations and hundreds of community members, collaborating to build decent work, shared wealth, and equitable development.

Welcome Committee FAQ

Who is the Welcome Committee?

The Welcome Committee is a group of Parkdale residents who have joined forces to explore ways to welcome new tenants to the neighbourhood and address different responses to tenants as they are housed.

What does the Welcome Committee do?

The Welcome Committee has organized two Community Learning Circles for Parkdale neighbours to gather, delve into housing history, understand the dynamics of displacement, share stories about the neighbourhood, and explore both the policy and implementation of Right to Housing and Housing First approaches.

What are some of the projects that have emerged from the Welcome Committee?

There are two funds that the Welcome Committee has helped co-design:

1) The Neighbouring Fund: The Neighbouring Fund is funding for Parkdale residents to design and collaborate on projects that help welcome new neighbours and connect them to meaningful resources, supports, and networks in our neighbourhood.

2) The Socially Engaged Housing Justice Art Fund: Three local Parkdale-based artists—Jeffery Lyon, Erin Candela, and Parth Shah—are working with the Parkdale Planning Table to deliver arts-based projects aimed at fostering community unity around our demands for housing justice. Jeffery taught two silk screening workshops for community members to share his design on tote bags which will be distributed as 'Welcome Kits' to new tenants at 90 Dunn, Erin facilitated a pottery workshop, and Parth curated a poster series featuring a diverse collection of recipes submitted by neighbours.

A mapping committee has been formed as an extension of the Welcome Committee, dedicated to developing a comprehensive map highlighting various resources and spaces available to new tenants within the neighbourhood

What are some things you can do to support the Welcome Committee's work and how can you get involved?

We are accepting in-kind and monetary donations to help us welcome new tenants. Items such as gift cards, coffee and tea bags, cold weather accessories, and personal hygiene products would be greatly appreciated.

Do you have an event or meeting space in Parkdale that we can use for some of our project work?

Volunteer to join our Welcome Committee!

Share information about this Social Medicine Initiative with your friends and neighbours!

Email Beryl-Ann Mark at berylanma@westnh.org or call Liz Gallou at 416-358-3460 to learn more about how to support any of these items.