



Mitchell Cohen, President and CEO of The Daniels Corporation released the following statement today regarding Toronto Community Housing's selection of a Development Partner for the final two phases of the Regent Park Revitalization.

TORONTO, December 15, 2020 - "The Daniels Corporation has been Toronto Community Housing's (TCH) development partner on the Regent Park revitalization over the past 15 years. Recently, we learned that TCH has chosen another developer for the final two phases of the revitalization.

Although we are deeply disappointed, we wish TCH and their new partner well. We also want to reassure local residents of our long-term commitment to the Regent Park community. Our work has never been just about sewers, roads, buildings or district energy systems. It has been about building community.

As we complete our work in Phase Three, we will continue to invest substantial resources, further solidifying the foundation we've built together with the local community. Empowerment, engagement, social procurement and building community capital have been highly intentional building blocks every step of the way, and through that process the threads of social cohesion are beginning to take root.

The revitalization didn't start at City Hall or at Toronto Community Housing. It started in Regent Park, with local voices at the heart of the conversation. Today, more than ever, it is essential that those voices are heard and respected.

Looking back, we recall the day in February 2006 when the first buildings were demolished, kicking off a truly historic journey. At that time, most residents felt considerable anxiety as their homes and histories were obliterated for the promise of a better tomorrow. As the wrecking ball knocked down those first buildings, very few people predicted success.

Today, the revitalization is celebrated as the gold standard by which a challenged inner city neighbourhood can be transformed. In fact, the Government of Canada and UN Habitat recently announced the Regent Park World Urban Pavilion, situated intentionally in Regent Park as a model of inclusive urbanism for cities around the world to emulate.

Over the past 15 years, Regent Park has been reconnected to the city and a thriving mixed use, mixed income, multi-generational community is gaining strength and momentum. Significant new amenities are in place, including a 6-acre Park, Aquatic Centre, Community Centre, the Regent Park Athletic Grounds and Daniels Spectrum, a 60,000 square foot arts and cultural hub.

The revitalization has also been a catalyst for inclusive local economic opportunity, with Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS) reporting that 580 jobs have been created as a direct result of the revitalization. We want to thank our sub-contractors, service providers, and consultants for opening their doors and their hearts to residents of Regent Park.

We also want to express our appreciation to the financial institutions, commercial tenants, post-secondary institutions, non-profit agencies, charitable foundations and individual philanthropists for embracing the partnership model that has set the stage for long term success.

Looking ahead, we hope that many more partners will come to the table, lending expertise as well as financial resources in order to see the revitalization through to successful completion.

All of us at Daniels are proud of what we've accomplished, and of our partnership with this remarkable community. We're incredibly fortunate to have made so many lifelong friends along the way.

The Regent Park revitalization is an opportunity for Toronto to truly get it right, to shine a light around the world, illuminating what can be achieved when collaboration and partnership take center stage, and when development is about achieving positive outcomes for all stakeholders.”

Mitchell Cohen,
President & CEO
The Daniels Corporation