



230 FIGHTBACK

230 FIGHTBACK PREPARES FOR MAJOR BATTLES WITH THE DEVELOPERS IN 2025

On January 11, 230 Fightback held its AGM and the turnout was terrific. People active in the fight to ensure social housing is built at 214-230 Sherbourne in Toronto's Downtown east were joined by the representatives of seven other organizations. These were Friends of Chinatown Toronto, Chinatown Landtrust, Shelter, Housing and Justice Network, South York Weston Tenant Union, Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union, Regent Park community, No Demovictions, Card 13 and Migrants Rights Network. All of them provided us with reports on the work that they are doing and the campaigns they are engaged in.

We began with a review of our activities over the last year that was far too extensive to cover fully here. The developer that owns the site, KingSett Capital, had planned to build a luxury condo tower and, while it has not abandoned that plan, it has indicated a willingness to sell the property to the City. However, it wants a high price that would cover the cost of its speculative antics that makes the sale impossible and the property continues to sit empty. Throughout 2024, we mobilized the community to confront both KingSett and City Hall. This included an action that forced the Mayor's Office to meet with us, an occupation of 214-230 Sherbourne and the crashing of the Christmas celebrations at a plush hotel owned by KingSett.

We are demanding the developer free up the property and we are calling on the politicians to stop greasing the wheels of KingSett's profit making and apply real pressure to obtain the site. Our campaign has kept the issue of 214-230 Sherbourne on the political agenda and ensured that the developer's destructive greed and the complicity of City Hall has been challenged. The fight for social housing on that site will only get stronger in 2025. This AGM was an opportunity to take stock of our struggle and we set several priorities for the coming year.

1. Expose and disrupt the cozy relations that exist between the developers and politicians.
2. Pay particular attention to challenging the role of the avowed progressives on City Council, including the Mayor, in furthering the extreme commodification of housing in this city with all the harm this causes.
3. As the condo market experiences a major crisis, the developers are hoping to cushion the blow by receiving massive public funds and lucrative incentives to build largely high end rental properties. We must fight to ensure that the housing that communities need is created and that the profit needs of developers don't dominate housing provision.
4. While continuing our individual struggles, we need to ensure that this year sees the emergence of a united movement that advances clear demands around the housing that our communities need and that can fight for them effectively by increasing the level of our mobilization.
5. The agenda of greed and parasitic speculation has reached a point of crisis, as the condo market tanks. Those responsible must not be allowed to find solutions that deepen inequality and that cause even more harm. The fightback against these destructive agents and their political enablers must be taken forward in 2025.



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