

Agenda Including Addeds

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

17th Meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

November 29, 2021, 4:00 PM

2021 Meeting - Virtual Meeting during the COVID-19 Emergency

Please check the City website for current details of COVID-19 service impacts.

Meetings can be viewed via live-streaming on YouTube and the City website

Members

Mayor E. Holder (Chair), Councillors M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, M. Hamou, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozo, J. Fyfe-Millar, S. Hillier

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Pages

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

2. Consent

3. Scheduled Items

3.1. Public Participation Meeting - Not to be heard before 4:00 PM - 2022 Budget

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| a. | Submission - A. Oudshoorn, Associate Professor, Arthur Labatt Family Chair in Nursing Leadership in Health Equity, Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing | 3 |
| b. | <i>(ADDED) Submission - S. Franke, President, Urban League of London</i> | 4 |
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| d. | <i>(ADDED) Submission - M. Larsen</i> | 7 |
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| h. | <i>(ADDED) Submission - Antler River Rally</i> | 13 |
| i. | <i>(ADDED) Submission - Z. Fakirani, President and E. Oladejo, Vice President, External Affairs, Western University Students' Council</i> | 16 |

4. Items for Direction

5. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

6. Adjournment

From: Abe Oudshoorn
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Budget <Budget@CityofLondon.onmicrosoft.com>; SPPC <sppc@london.ca>
Cc: Dickins, Kevin <kdickins@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding upcoming budget considerations

To Council,

In budget update season I wanted to bring forward a few items that are actually future considerations but also need some attention now. Firstly, thank you for committing to another year of winter response to homelessness. It is vital that we provide low barrier options that bring people in from the elements. I hope that for as many of the residents as possible, this interim response is a pathway into permanent housing options.

I wanted to bring to your attention two things for the future. Firstly, I don't anticipate significant enough changes over the next year wherein we won't need a winter solution again for 2022/23. While the tapering off of the pandemic should allow for more return to usual services, and the current RFP should allow for a shift in the overall response, the incredible numbers of people experiencing homelessness in our community right now will mean a long pressure to adequately rehouse people with necessary supports. Therefore, I believe we should consider the likelihood of needing a 2022 winter response. Secondly, and the reason I raise this at budget season, it is unlikely that there will be federal pandemic funds available to fund this response going forward. Therefore, I'm wondering if you might consider directing finance staff to explore sources of funding a response in 2022 should no federal funds be available. It is important that this be considered early given the upcoming municipal election that will limit budget decisions right at the time that a winter response would normally be considered.

Additionally, I believe that in working together as a community we can come up with an optimal, long-term response that fills the need for safe spaces for people who face the most barriers in accessing current services and face mortal danger through the winter season. Ideally this means a shift from temporary to permanent housing options. To that end, I'm hoping in the next multi-year budget a business case might be put forward to support a more permanent response. This would allow time for the community to work in collaboration to develop the best ongoing response that is congruent with the Housing Stability Action Plan for London.

So, no immediate action required, but a few important items I'm hoping will carry forward with future budget implications.

Thank you for your consideration.

To clerks, this letter may be included in the public correspondence for the Nov 29 public participation meeting. I am not requesting an opportunity to present.

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Abe Oudshoorn, RN, PhD
Associate Professor
Arthur Labatt Family Chair in Nursing Leadership in Health Equity
Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing
Room 2304, FIMS & Nursing Building
Western University
London, ON, N6A 5B9
Managing Editor, [International Journal on Homelessness](#)



The Urban League of London
P.O. Box 574, Station B,
London, Ontario N6A 4W8

November 24, 2021

Mayor E. Holder, Budget Chief Pelosa and members of Council:

2022 Budget Update - Feedback

The Urban League of London is an umbrella organization whose members include over 40 neighbourhood associations and community groups as well as individuals working to improve and connect our city. After reviewing the 2022 Budget Update documents, we respectfully request that Council reject amendment P-7 specific to the \$125,000 reduction of the Neighborhood Decision Making (NDM) and the \$10,000 reduction of the Neighborhood Special Events (NSE), and amendment P-6 for a permanent decrease of \$600,000 investment to reduce the Infrastructure Gap.

Since the NDM program began five years ago, it has grown in popularity and public engagement as evidenced by an increased number of projects. While the opportunity to host NSE has been limited by the pandemic, many groups simply do not have the financial capacity to fund such activities without the city's help.

We would suggest a review and update of the NDM process to ensure that wealthier neighbourhoods and communities do not continue to receive disproportionately more funding than equity seeking and also low income communities. Due to wealthier areas' ability to mobilise votes, the NDM process favours these communities. An update is required to make the NDM process more equitable, and we don't think a reduction in spending would help improve the equitable distribution of funds to equity seeking communities.

As with so many pre-pandemic ways of connecting, Londoners have been challenged to find safe and meaningful opportunities. Neighbourhood projects and special events are important to bring the community together. As we move forward from the pandemic, they will be even more important for re-establishing the trust Londoner's need to re-connect across our city.

In addition, the League has concerns about the proposed reduction to infrastructure spending. Long-term deficits in infrastructure improvements have already made London vulnerable to catastrophic damage and destruction particularly resulting from water damage due to our ageing storm and sanitary sewer infrastructure. **We'd encourage Council to set aside the \$600,000 towards a climate change fund for future use.**

Improving specific infrastructure is critical to ensuring London can address future impacts of climate change. Looking at what towns and cities in BC have experienced over the past six months is an example of what we need to be prepared for. The \$600,000 could then be allocated in 2022 to jumpstart the implementation of the Climate Emergency Action Plan, and demonstrate Council's climate leadership by planning for climate action.

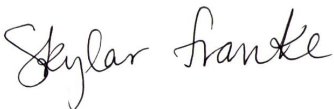
Finally, we are encouraged by the work undertaken to date on including Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations in the budgeting process. Going forward, providing a much deeper analysis and process of who is most impacted by budget items, and why, is needed, but we recognize the start the City has made. In addition, embedding ESGs into the day to day work of administration is necessary and we hope to see this reflected in future decision making.

In closing, we encourage members of council to:

- reject amendment P-7 and maintain NDM and NSE to at least their current level - **but ensure an equity review of the programs is completed before the 2022 NDM process.**
- reject amendment P-6 to close the infrastructure gap - **and re-allocate the funds to a climate action fund.**
- take steps to be even more accountable transparent and rigorous in applying ESG considerations to the budget process

Thank you for considering.

Regards,



Skylar Franke

President - Urban League of London *on behalf of the Urban League of London Board*

From: Bob Morrison

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 5:52 PM

To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>; van Holst, Michael <mvanholst@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>; Salih, Mo Mohamed <msalih@london.ca>; Helmer, Jesse <jhelmer@london.ca>; Cassidy, Maureen <mcassidy@london.ca>; Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>; Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <pvanmeerbergen@london.ca>; Turner, Stephen <sturner@london.ca>; Peloza, Elizabeth <epeloza@london.ca>; Hillier, Steven <shillier@london.ca>; Hamou, Mariam <mhamou@london.ca>; Fyfe-Millar, John <jfmillar@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Update 2021 - Zero Emission Bus Strategy & Sewage Bypass and Overflow Elimination

Dear Councillors and Mayor Holder,

The City of London declared a climate emergency in April 2019. I do wish to acknowledge and thank City staff for progress in developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan and a Climate Lens to apply to major projects however I feel that the City of London needs to move more rapidly in addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures.

I urge you to support and not delay a couple of budget amendments put forward.

P-10 Zero-Emission Bus Implementation Strategy

Other Canadian cities are already using battery electric buses and moving to an all electric fleet will take time. It is important to advance this pilot project quickly in order to ensure we can participate in consortium joint procurements and also ensure full participation in Federal funding opportunities. A delay in not proceeding quickly could potentially jeopardise these. It also sends an important message to residents and businesses that climate action needs to be taken now.

Additionally, it is important that London Transit obtains this important experience with battery electric buses prior to future fleet replacement needs. Not prioritizing and then buying diesel buses as replacement in the future would be inconsistent with the Climate Emergency declaration.

WWT-1 Capital program for Sewage Bypass and Overflow Elimination

It is important to re-invest savings from reduced energy costs at Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plant in a number of initiatives to eliminate sewage bypass and overflow events. Although there are planned projects for wastewater / rainwater separation these additional capital items can demonstrate our commitment and respect to our Indigenous neighbours downstream. It would also be consistent with the City of London declaring itself a Blue Community and recognising water and sanitation as a human right.

We are already experiencing more intense rainfall events that result in these bypass and overflow events. Recent climate change related events across Canada have clearly shown that climate change impacts are real and are happening quicker than previously forecasted. The current projected increase in the Wastewater budget is reasonable therefore I urge you to support the use of the cost savings for these capital projects.

Sincerely,

Bob Morrison
Grosvenor Street
London N6A 1Y2

From: Marianne Larsen

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 7:24 PM

To: City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>

Cc: Budget <Budget@CityofLondon.onmicrosoft.com>; SPPC <sppc@london.ca>; van Holst, Michael <mvanholst@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>; Salih, Mo Mohamed <msalih@london.ca>; Helmer, Jesse <jhelmer@london.ca>; Cassidy, Maureen <mcassidy@london.ca>; Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>; Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <pvanmeerbergen@london.ca>; Turner, Stephen <sturner@london.ca>; Pelosa, Elizabeth <epelosa@london.ca>; Hillier, Steven <shillier@london.ca>; Hamou, Mariam <mhamou@london.ca>; Fyfe-Millar, John <jfmillar@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Citizen input on budget amendments: Time to Act on the Climate Emergency Action Plan

Dear Mayor Holder and London City Councillors,

I am writing to you because of my concerns about the climate crisis. The City of London declared a climate emergency in April 2019. I acknowledge and thank City staff for progress in developing a Climate Emergency Action Plan and a Climate Lens to apply to major projects. However, the City of London needs to move more rapidly in addressing both mitigation and adaptation measures to meet the goals of our Climate Emergency Action Plan.

I urge you to support without delay two particular budget amendments as outlined here.

First, I would like to begin with the budget amendment P-10 Zero-Emission Bus Implementation Strategy. Other Canadian cities are already using battery electric buses and moving to an all-electric fleet will take time. Research demonstrates that battery electric buses are the best option in terms of the initial costs of shifting a fleet of internal combustion engine buses to electricity. It is important to advance this pilot project quickly in order to ensure we can participate in consortium joint procurements and also ensure full participation in federal government funding opportunities. A delay could potentially jeopardize these. It also sends an important message to residents and businesses that climate action needs to happen immediately.

Additionally, it is important that London Transit obtains this important experience with battery electric buses prior to future fleet replacement needs. Not prioritizing and then buying diesel buses as replacement in the future would be inconsistent with the Climate Emergency declaration.

Second, I would like to address the Budget Amendment Waste Water Tax Levy-1 Capital program for Sewage Bypass and Overflow Elimination. We need to re-invest savings from reduced energy costs at Greenway Wastewater Treatment Plant in a number of initiatives to eliminate sewage bypass and overflow events. Although there are planned projects for wastewater / rainwater separation these additional capital items can demonstrate our commitment and respect to our Indigenous neighbours downstream. It would also be consistent with the City of London declaring itself a Blue Community, which recognizes water and sanitation as a human right.

We are already experiencing more intense rainfall and other extreme weather events that result in these bypass and overflow events. Recent climate crisis related events across Canada such as flooding in BC have clearly shown that climate crisis impacts are real and are happening quicker than previously forecasted. The current projected increase in the Wastewater budget is reasonable therefore I urge you to support the use of the cost savings for these capital projects.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marianne A. Larsen

Cathcart Street, London, ON N6C 3L5

I am located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples who have cared for this land since time immemorial. These lands including the contemporary city of London, Ontario are connected through various treaties between Indigenous nations, the Crown and Canadian government and include the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples who are contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors of our society. I am grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory, and seek to reconcile relationships with the Indigenous peoples of this land, so that we can live in respect, peace and right relations with one another.

From: butler.chris
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 4:10 PM
To: SPPC <sppc@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Input Submission - Added Agenda - SPPC Nov 29 Budget Meeting

Cathy / Heather – Please distribute this note as public input & “ Added Agenda “ for the upcoming November 29th – SPPC Budget meeting .

Councillor Pelosa (Budget Chair) / Mayor Holder / Council Members – This communication is limited to well less than the 5 minute max restriction and should be viewed as Public Input as the gallery @ City Hall is not yet open to the Public.

Summary

I welcome the initiative & leadership of our Finance Team in mitigating / reducing our 2022 Tax Increase from the 3.8 % forecast to the recommended 2.8 % . I am both appalled and deeply concerned the forecast put forward of a 4.8 % increase in 2023 . This Council needs to take a very proactive partnership @ the City Manager and Finance Team to assure that this 4.5 % is mitigated back to a more reasonable 2.5 % well prior to handing off this responsible to a newly elected Council in late October 2022. If this takes bi- monthly meetings our a Special Committee , to plan for success , please consider this and implement this over the this December – January Budget period .

Deeper Dive & Action Requested Please

Page 200 – Appendix C of the detailed Budget document highlights \$41.7 M in Capital Reserve Funds (almost 10 % of all total Reserve Funds) , as set aside for the Wonderland RD Expansion. This project was terminated in August – September 2021 by all Council Committees and any new initiative on a mix of transportation solutions on Wonderland will be and should be considered a new project @ new scope & objectives , a public meeting process with a likely outcome of 1.5 – 2.0 years to even come forward to Council . The current plan to “ wait for the next Budget Period in 2022” to review these funds is totally unacceptable. There is increasing distrust building in your taxpayers & your customers that there is anything close to a fair process currently in place @ our City Management & this Council with the repurposing of Reserve Funds. Example – the Ribbon on the Thames fund was just repurposed to Public Housing after cancellation 2 years ago and attending personally attending 3 Public Meetings. One Councillor needs to step up here and put forward a motion @ this Budget Meeting to return at minimum 50 % of the current Wonderland Rd Widening funds to taxpayers over a fair 5 year period starting in 2022 tax year. **Think of it this way** – If my Financial Planner repurposed sections of my RSP investments with the same standards this City & Council is applying – she would be charged , her license lifted and my funds returned to me.

Budget Process & Councils Tool Bag Reco's

1. Increase the current annual target for the City of London annual contribution to “ Service Improvements (Continuous Improvement Program)” from the \$1.2 M to at least \$2.4 (0.25 % annually of total OPS Budget) . We have exceed our minimum target for 2 – 3 concurrent years, this target is far short of any annual Private Sector program (usually 2.5 % to 5.0 % per year) and is obsolete. The immediate impact of this would be a much broader participation level across the Operating Departments who currently seldom offer any new initiatives. I am also a LARGE SUPPORTER of steering up to 50 % of these improvements back to target & self fund the more Capital Intense improvements including technology leaps for cost reductions & future increase avoidance.
2. Immediately change the By – Law that requires our City Council to direct our City Manager on each and every Program Reduction (often called Service Reduction)

when a OPS \$ Budget spending reduction is required to offset your continuous approval of more important or higher priority new programs . I have attended two(2) of these meetings and been sadly disappointed with the results and the inability of this Council to gain consensus on almost any item . This UNIQUE by-law seems to be shared only by the City of London and Calgary , and both these cities are testing taxpayers patience. Most major Cities In Ontario allow Council to set the tax increase target and the City Manager and their team respond @ the viable options to get there , leadership that is fully available @ our City of London Management team .

3. The by-law governing the Annual Allocation of New Assessment Growth (\$ 11 M - \$13 M annually) needs to be changed as follows to provide greater flexibility for Council & fairness – disclosure to tax payers

- Align the timing of this process with the Annual Budget update & public input & approval process. Currently this occurs without either a public meeting or even Council input with an annual report from the CFO marked report only. Even St. Thomas aligns this with the Public meeting process by bring forward the annual cut off date for New Assessment Value Growth . Most Ontario Councils also have a great deal more latitude to impact some of \$ allocation than you do .

- Under no circumstances should any funds be allocated from this process to an Operating Department that has not provided meaningful improvements in the “ Service Improvements Program “ for the past 2 years. Why reward past stagnant performance @ new Budget ?

- Per our London Plan we are starting to reach 38 % in-fill with rapidly increasing annual targets . There is a very strong argument building that we already have the close to full services allocated to serve this infill pretty much across the board. This opens up a huge opportunity for Council to allocate the \$ 2.5 - \$ 3.5 M annually currently applied to our tax levy to top up the never ending discretionary reserve funds allocated to developers for DC Programs like Brown Soil removal and waiving some Development Charges in approved incentive zones to be **funded perpetually** from this New Assessment Value Growth process. Growth pays for growth and our tax levy funding drops off. THIS IS NOT A RADICAL OPTION and is much fairer to tax payers .

Respectfully yours & THXS - Chris Butler – 863 Waterloo – Ward 6

To: Budget Chair and Members SPPC

From: Sandy Levin (without any of the hats I wear other than concerned citizen)

Re: 2022 Budget update submission, Nov 29, 2021

1. The COVID impacts on the city budget have largely been mitigated by other levels of government. However, the COVID related impacts of the increase in use of our Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs) has not been addressed. These impacts include more trash, more inappropriate uses such as constructed bike jumps and more off trail use. I ask Council to support a temporary annual increase of \$100,000 for 2022 and for 2023 in the contract with the UTRCA for ESA management so that the UTRCA can hire additional boots on the ground for its ESA team. To avoid a tax impact, I suggest this be funded through the Urban Forestry Renewal Reserve (which staff propose for continued Invasive Plant Species management).
2. I want to flag the level of tax supported contributions to the following reserve funds (page taken from p. 156 of the 2020-2023 multi-year budget not the budget update document). Is there too much tax money going in this year and next given the size of the balances and not knowing if the programs they support work? After all, no one is going to say they don't need an extra \$3-\$5M as is the case for some large residential building projects. The value for money evaluation process in place goes beyond the next multi-year budget and is unlikely to prove effectiveness one way or another.

CAPITAL ASSET GROWTH DETAILS 2020 - 2023 (\$000's)

Established to provide funding to new capital initiatives while allowing the City to stabilize the cost of purchasing major capital assets by spreading the cost over multiple years.

		<-----PROJECTED BALANCE----->					TOTAL	PROJECTED
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020-2023	2024-2029
Industrial Oversizing	Tax Supported Contributions	400	200	200	200	200	800	600
	Other	85	17	15	12	8	52	36
	Planned Draws	(2,934)	(332)	(331)	(393)	(393)	(1,449)	(707)
	Projected Balance	924	809	693	511	326	326	255
Industrial Land	Tax Supported Contributions	1,892	1,892	1,892	1,892	1,892	7,568	11,352
	Other	2,583	1,084	1,089	6,090	1,078	9,342	6,256
	Planned Draws	(9,390)	(664)	(4,715)	(6,133)	(6,029)	(17,541)	(22,497)
	Projected Balance	8,112	10,424	8,690	10,539	7,481	7,481	2,591
Industrial DC Incentive	Tax Supported Contributions	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	8,800	13,200
	Other	3,061	60	61	62	63	245	407
	Planned Draws	(4,656)	(2,200)	(2,200)	(2,200)	(2,200)	(8,800)	(13,200)
	Projected Balance	2,977	3,037	3,097	3,159	3,223	3,223	3,629
Institutional DC Incentive	Tax Supported Contributions	3,592	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	9,600	14,400
	Other	186	136	93	95	97	422	626
	Planned Draws	(1,055)	(6,900)	(2,400)	(2,400)	(2,400)	(14,100)	(14,400)
	Projected Balance	9,037	4,673	4,767	4,862	4,959	4,959	5,585
Commercial DC Incentive	Tax Supported Contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	403	4	1	1	1	8	9
	Planned Draws	(83)	(306)	-	-	-	(306)	-
	Projected Balance	366	64	66	67	68	68	77
Residential DC Incentive ¹	Tax Supported Contributions	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	6,000	9,000
	Other	63	4,524	(13)	17	45	4,572	819
	Planned Draws	60	(11,287)	(4)	(4)	(213)	(11,508)	(2,023)
	Projected Balance	3,857	(1,405)	77	1,590	2,921	2,921	10,717

City of London
300 Dufferin Ave, London, ON

Nov 26th 2021

Dear Councillors, Budget Chair Peloza and Honourable Mayor,

We were saddened by the lack of new funding for climate action and the delay of the climate emergency action plan in general. We are eager to see the City Council start implementing new climate action and adaptation measures, and we hope to see significant investment in 2022 and onwards, whether or not the allocation time aligns with a budget cycle.

In regards to this budget update, the environmental sector **supports the following:**

- (P-9) - Continuation of the Invasive Species Management Strategy
- (P-12) - Zero Emission Bus Implementation Strategy
- (WWT-1, Part A and B) - Using the savings from Greenway's energy reduction to fund wastewater projects (*see more details in Antler River Rally's letter submission*)

Future Suggestions for Climate Projects in the Budget

We'd love to see more capital funded support introduced for the community and the Corporation itself, specifically for climate action projects. Having multi-year, capital funding for climate projects creates a steady source of revenue for City staff and the community to initiate climate action projects, without having to create annual business cases. [Ottawa is currently looking at this too.](#)

We were very happy to see the Wonderland Road and Adelaide Road North widening projects being suspended earlier this year, after analysis of the project with the climate emergency screening tool. These types of budget cuts help reduce the burden on taxpayers and reduce future emissions from cars. The Wonderland Road Widening cancellation saved over \$212 million for Londoners, and we would be eager to see more cost savings from projects that cause significant emissions.

With the looming climate and biodiversity crises, every budget needs to be critically evaluated to ensure the spending this year and next year doesn't negatively impact reaching our emission reduction targets. I encourage department staff to continually evaluate their projects and budget submissions with the screening tool and report back to Council prior to moving forward with those projects. As we learned with Wonderland Road, it's never too late to cancel a high-emissions project, or projects with negative biodiversity impacts.

Thanks for your time and consideration,
(*see signing organizations on the next page*)

Signing organizations*:



London
Environmental
Network



Friends of Kilally Meadows ESA



EnviroWestern

**More signing on, we will send along an updated letter on December 1st with all the signing organizations*



City of London

300 Dufferin Ave, London, ON

Nov 26th 2021

Dear Councillors, Budget Chair Peloza and Honourable Mayor,

We are writing in support of staff's Recommended 2022 Wastewater & Treatment Budget Amendments, Part B:

Part B of this amendment is being recommended to use the permanent reduction outlined in Part A to develop a new capital program. It will fund small to medium size standalone bypass and overflow elimination projects, as well as similar components of larger wastewater projects. (Page 24 of the budget presentation).

As many of you will know, rainstorms in September of this year led to the release of 60 million litres of untreated sewage into Deshkan Ziibi/Thames River. While we recognize the City has been working to separate the combined sewers and reduce the amount of sewage released into the river, the timeline for completion of this work is still years away. We support any initiatives that will speed up this work and put a permanent end to sewage pollution in the river.

Deshkan Ziibi is the reason we exist as a city. It is the lifeblood of the delicate ecology and biodiversity that defines our region and sustains our health, and it is also at the heart of Treaties that the Crown entered into with First Nations of this region.

These treaties included agreements on the part of the Crown to protect the water and land and not to impinge on First Nations constitutionally protected relationship with the land and water of their traditional territories, including the river and the river water bed, which is unceded territory.

As you will know, Oneida Nation of the Thames is currently on a boil-water advisory, and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation was on a boil-water advisory as recently as this past summer. Raw sewage released into the river contributes to the ongoing water issues faced by neighbouring First Nations including their inability to drink their water.

In recent years, there have been efforts in this country to forge new relationships with Indigenous peoples and their Nations. The health of these relationships is contingent on the health of the land on which these relationships are built. We must do everything in our power to restore the river to its pre-colonial health. The staff recommendation is in accordance with the stated goals of the London plan, which are outlined in the Key Directions of the Strategy section, and include the following sections:

10. Protect and enhance our watersheds and the Thames River as the backbone of our public and ecosystem health.

7. Collaborate with regional partners to deliver a safe supply of drinking water

5. Create a working relationship with neighbouring First Nations communities and explore opportunities for collaboration on common objectives.

Remediating the problem of raw sewage as quickly as possible is thus paramount to ensuring a “safe supply of drinking water” for First Nations communities, to “protect[ing] and enhance[ing] our watersheds and the Thames River as the backbone of our public and ecosystem health,” and to observing our Treaty obligations and to building a “working relationship with neighbouring First Nations.”

The “working relationship” aspired to in the London Plan is given more specific shape in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Report. As council members will remember, on September 30th of this year—just days after 60 million litres of sewage was released into the river—the City of London observed the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. While the day holds symbolic importance, that symbolism must be backed up by the Calls for Action that arise out of that important commission. Call number 43 states:

We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

This call is important as UNDRIP lays out specific rights of Indigenous Peoples as those rights pertain to land and water. Three of these articles are outlined below.

Article 24

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals. Indigenous individuals also have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services.

Article 25

Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

Article 26

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

Releasing raw sewage into the river violates all of the above rights, as it compromises the health of the river, which is the cultural, spiritual, and material lifeblood to Indigenous peoples and their Nations.

Environmentalism and Truth and Reconciliation are inseparable. Deshkan Ziibi flows through our collective history; our relationship to the river will determine our future as a city and our collective goal to honour our treaty obligations and forge a new path forward built on mutual respect and benefit. We encourage you to adopt staff's recommendations and thank you for your time and consideration.

Signing organizations*:



London
Environmental
Network



Friends of Kilally Meadows ESA



EnviroWestern

**More signing on, we will send along an updated letter on December 1st with all the signing organizations*



University Students' Council

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Dear His Worship and Councillors,

The University Students' Council (USC) at Western is an active member of our London community. For many years, we have consistently provided the student perspective on critical decisions made by the city council. Outlined below is our response to proposed amendments for the 2021 Municipal Budget Update, as well as further areas of improvement that are important to students.

Gender-Based Analysis

In 2020, the USC recommended that the city apply a Gender-Based Analysis approach when considering policy and investment options, that both manage the impact on the budget while supporting economic recovery in London. Furthermore, the USC is very pleased to see steps taken towards this approach through the new Environmental, Socio-economic Equity Impact, and Governance (ESG) Considerations. The inclusion of ESG considerations will allow councillors and community members to adopt a critical lens in thinking equitably when evaluating budget amendments and recommendations. It also allows for greater attention to be given to the intersectionalities of our community members.

The USC would like to see these ESG Considerations expanded to further build on gender-based analysis and considerations for the safety of women and girls. In the 2019 Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey, 71.6% of respondents from Western University disclosed experiencing sexual harrassment.¹ Although some of these experiences occur on campus, others also occur off campus at bus stops, in public areas, and at bars.² This issue is not exclusive to students, but to the community as a whole. In the previous budget update, the only Strategic Area of Focus that did not receive additional investments in the 2020-2023 budget was "Creating a Safe London for Women and Girls" and there has been no change in the current budget update.³ Although we are glad to see advancements through the ESG

¹ Student Voices on Sexual Violence. (2019). Summary Report of the Student Voices on Sexual Violence Survey. Pg 13.

<https://files.ontario.ca/tcu-summary-report-student-voices-on-sexual-violence-survey-en-2019-03.pdf>

²Anova London. (2020). Safe Cities London Scoping Report. Pg 17.

<http://www.anovafuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Safe-Cities-London-Scoping-Study.pdf>

³City of London. (2020). Tax Supported Budget. Pg 30.

<https://london.ca/sites/default/files/2020-11/2020-2023%20MYB%20Document%20Property%20Tax%20-%20AS%20OF%20OCTOBER%2028.ah%20FINAL.pdf>

Considerations, we believe that the city can go further to bridge the gaps that women and girls are subject to in the community.

Recommendation: The City of London should continue to build on the ESG Considerations to further embed a Gender-Based Analysis lense into the city's future budget processes.

Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability is an issue that our students are very passionate about. Furthermore, the USC is pleased to see many budget updates regarding the city's sustainability goals. Specifically, we are in support of the proposed recommendation regarding the zero-emission bus implementation strategy. Nonetheless, we believe that more can be done in regard to waste diversion.

The 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan reflects strong support for the implementation of a Green Bin composting program.⁴ Students in particular have been especially eager to see a Green Bin composting program in the City's waste diversion plans. Organic waste diversion is an effective method for reducing landfill space and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. An organic waste program also presents the potential for job creation and can offer financial benefits. Furthermore, London is one of few major municipalities in Ontario that has yet to officially implement an organic waste program as mandated by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks in the 2018 Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement.⁵

The 2020-2023 Multi-Year budget initially allocated \$17.6 million to the 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan for the 4 year period.⁶ In the 2021 Property Tax, Water, Wastewater & Treatment multi-year budget amendments, the City of London decreased 2022 funding for the 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan by \$1.45 million, reducing the allocated funds from \$6.5 million to \$5.05 million.⁷ This is in addition to the 2021 decrease from \$3.9 million to \$1.6 million.

The USC recognizes the financial constraints that the City of London is facing and is concerned that the Green Bin composting program will not be implemented within the 2020-2023 multi-year budget cycle. We are also concerned that should costs associated with such a program increase, requiring more significant investments than anticipated, the program may not be implemented in future multi-year budget cycles. The USC affirms its support for a Green Bin

⁴ City of London. (2020). 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan.
<https://getinvolved.london.ca/whywasteresource>

⁵ Government of Ontario. (2018). Ontario's Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement. Pg 10.
https://files.ontario.ca/food_and_organic_waste_policy_statement.pdf

⁶ City of London (2020). Tax Supported Budget.
<https://london.ca/sites/default/files/2020-11/2020-2023%20MYB%20Document%20Property%20Tax%20-%20AS%20OF%20OCTOBER%2028.ah%20FINAL.pdf>

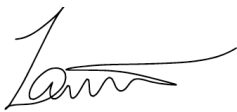
⁷ City of London. (2021). Property Tax, Water, Wastewater & Treatment Budgets. Pg 210-212
<https://london.ca/sites/default/files/2021-11/V6%202022%20Annual%20Budget%20Update%20AODA%20FINAL.pdf>

composting program and urges the City of London to begin the implementation process during this current budget cycle.


Recommendation: City council should adopt the recommended budget amendment regarding the zero-emission bus implementation strategy.

Recommendation: The City of London should return to its original 2020 funding and allocate \$6.5 million to the Green Bin Program.

With appreciation,



Zamir Fakirani
President
Western University Students' Council



Eunice Oladejo
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