

September 1, 2023.

City of London
Municipal Council
c/o Community and Protective Services Committee,

Re: Security needs for London Cares Homeless Response Services

Dear Committee Members,

In writing in support of request for ongoing funding for security for London Cares operation of programming at 602 Queens Ave. and Horton St. As we approach the winter season and witness the growing needs of the individuals we serve, the continuation of security services is pivotal to maintaining the seamless delivery of essential services.

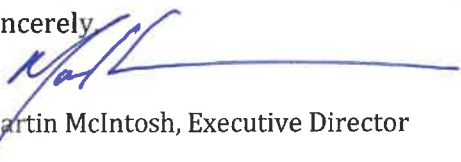
As a partner organization operating out of 602 Queens Ave., we remain committed to providing vital support to those in our community who need it the most. Regional HIV/AIDS Connection has a staff team of 27 based at this location, with an additional 15-20 volunteers on site weekly supporting our service delivery to community members. Over the course of the past 6 months, we have witnessed the increasing levels of desperation faced by community members experiencing homelessness translate into growing levels of violence and aggression centered in and around service and support locations. The level of increased risk to the safety of participants, staff, volunteers, and other members of community are unprecedented.

As temperatures drop and challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness increase, 602 Queens Ave. and London Cares Horton Street play crucial roles as ongoing support sites. Without security, we'll be forced to halt services, worsening the situation, and leading to the potential for further increases in aggression and violence.

I humbly request that you consider the pressing need for ongoing security services at 602 Queens Ave and London Cares Horton St. Location. The welfare of our community is at stake, and the decision to allocate resources to ensure a safe environment holds profound implications for the lives of those who depend on our assistance. Your commitment to safeguarding the well-being of our participants, staff, volunteers, and the surrounding community is essential.

On behalf of Regional HIV/AIDS Connection and in collaboration with our partners, I ask you to please endorse the continued funding of security services.

Sincerely



Martin McIntosh, Executive Director

Cc: Anne Armstrong, Margo Ritchie, Mike McMahon

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