

From: Luke Stark
Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 9:01 PM
To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter in Support of Community Hub Plan

Dear members of London City Council,

I am writing in extremely strong support of the community hubs throughout London that will provide essential services including beds, for members of the unhoused community. I appreciate very much the plan to prioritize women and female-identifying people, Indigenous people, people with complex medical needs, and youth, and I am glad that council accepted proposals from Atlohsa Family Healing Services, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and the Canadian Mental Health Association. It is heartening that so many different stakeholders in the city have come together to support the city's overall plan.

Given the scale of the housing crisis facing London, the opposition to these hubs seems highly misguided. It is clear we need a full-city approach, including outside the downtown core, to deal with a city-wide problem. Poverty is not confined to Dundas Street. These hubs take a holistic and humane approach to the problem of homelessness, and I hope that when push comes to shove, people all over London will band together to improve the living conditions of living for as many unhoused people as possible as quickly as we can. Please do not delay or defer this decision: support the plan as proposed.

Please feel free to enter this letter into the public record.

Yours sincerely,

Luke

Luke Stark | he/him/his
Assistant Professor, University of Western Ontario