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**London**  
CANADA

October 23, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

We wish to address the severity of the homeless/addiction crisis facing our city, the commitment made in our Strategic Plan to address the safety concerns in our existing emergency shelters and the underfunding of some emergency shelters as identified by Jon De Actis (Salvation Army Centre of Hope) in his delegation to the February 1, 2022 CPSC meeting.

Although, we understand that there were plans to move away from large emergency shelters and increase funding and resources in prevention, the current reality is that the length of stay in our emergency shelters has increased dramatically from 6 weeks to more than 12 months (even up to 18 months) during recent years. Imagine living in the dorm rooms of an emergency shelter with a staffing ratio of approximately 30:1 that has not received the funding increases needed to cover the increased costs of food, maintenance, utilities, wages, etc. We must do better – for the residents, for the staff who work there, and for our city.

We believe in the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. By providing recovery programs, improving staffing ratios and offering support services to the people staying in our current emergency shelters, particularly the larger ones, we could offer stable support earlier and possibly prevent them from becoming high acuity. This could save money in the long run, help more people earlier, and improve the safety of both residents and staff.

Therefore, we are asking your support for the following:

**That the following actions be taken with respect to the City of London's response to Housing and Homelessness and be reported to the November 21, 2023 SPPC meeting:**

- a) **that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back on the recovery services currently being offered and explore opportunities to provide/expand recovery focused programs within the existing and/or newly established local emergency shelters and facilities: and**
- b) **that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to report back on current staffing ratios and explore establishing minimum staffing ratios within existing local emergency shelters: and**
- c) **that Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to identify the costs, operational start dates, and potential sources of available funding for the above potential recovery based programs and increased staffing.**

Sincerely,

Susan Stevenson  
Ward 4 City Councillor

Jerry Pribil  
Ward 5 City Councillor