

Dear Members of London City Council,  
I am writing to share my personal experience and to strongly support the extension of 519Pursuit's contract as part of London's Whole of Community Response to homelessness.

I am currently on ODSP, and like many others, that support alone does not fully cover the cost of living. Through my part-time work with 519Pursuit, I have been given an opportunity that has changed my life in meaningful ways.

Working with 519Pursuit has provided me with a sense of independence that I did not have before. It allows me to contribute financially so I can afford groceries, cover basic needs, and take part in everyday life in a way that many people take for granted. Beyond that, it has given me something just as important—a sense of purpose and belonging.

Being part of the outreach team has opened the door to a social life and community connection. I am no longer isolated. I am part of a team that shows up for others, and in doing so, I feel seen, valued, and included. That feeling is incredibly important for someone trying to build stability and confidence.

What makes 519Pursuit truly special is that they create opportunities for people like me—people who have faced hardship—to be part of the solution. Many of us understand firsthand what it means to struggle, and that lived experience helps us connect with individuals currently facing homelessness in a real and meaningful way.

Through this work, I am not only supporting others, but I am also continuing my own journey toward stability and independence. Without opportunities like

this, it would be much harder to move forward.

519Pursuit is more than an outreach program—it is a bridge. It connects people to basic needs, to community, and to opportunities that can change the direction of their lives.

I respectfully ask City Council to support the extension of 519Pursuit's contract so that this work can continue. It is making a real difference—not just for those receiving support, but for those of us who are working to rebuild our lives and contribute to our community.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my story and for your continued commitment to our city.

Sincerely,

Gary Springman