

**From:** Chris Moss

**Sent:** February-15-12 10:21 PM

**To:** Polhill, Bud; Armstrong, Bill; Swan, Joseph; Orser, Stephen; Baechler, Joni; Branscombe, Nancy; Brown, Matt; Hubert, Paul; Henderson, Dale; Van Meerbergen, Paul; Brown, Denise; Usher, Harold; Bryant, Judy; White, Sandy; Fontana, Joe

**Cc:** Chris Moss; Matthew Eckert; Heather Harvey; Jordan Millward; Sharon Hutchison; Saunders, Cathy

**Subject:** Re: Short Term Thinking on Housing

To City Council,

I am writing today in support of my colleague's letter (noted below).

I am the Vice President of the Board for Community Habitat of London (CHL). I simply wish to add further comments regarding the spin off effects that will occur with your 0% budget goal. In order to save Londoner's a very small amount of extra tax (\$30 or less per year depending on how much is cut) you are causing intense potential community concerns.

Like Matt said in his email below, the simple dollars to affordable housing is an issue, but the ripple effect that the nonprofit sector will feel regarding increased services from lack of housing will be immense. Many of the tenants of CHL also access services from community organizations. They are the lucky ones, they have an affordable place to live. We try, as a Board, to let them live within their means; however, it is getting harder and harder for our organization (an almost entirely self-sufficient social enterprise) to keep up.

Organizations like WOTCH's My Sister's Place already sees 100 plus women a day. The Food Bank's need has severely increased this year and unfortunately just looking at those two examples it is safe to say that the strain on the rest of the organizations will be equally stressful (primary health care, public transportation, mental health etc.).

With the increased need on the nonprofit sector, there is not a matching support system in place for those NPO's. The funding and donor support of our local organizations has and will continue to decrease. People no longer have the money to give to these organizations. It feels almost as if we are approaching a perfect storm.

With more and more people losing jobs the need for affordable housing is essential.

To add to that, the money that has been removed from the accessibility "pot" is simply irresponsible. The province has mandated that accessibility standards are made and any municipality that does not comply will have non-compliance charges that will be challenging for London to pay if the money is pulled from this line. Please reconsider this area as well. (<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/accessibility/customerService/>)

I recognize that the general public will be under the illusion that 0% is a good thing. They don't have to pay anything extra. No one likes paying taxes. That said, the amount of money needed to make safe, logical decisions for our community is not that much. Even the shrinking middle class and lower income households could manage. My belief is that if people knew...**truly**...what was being taken away they would have voted differently. I believe that these cuts and the subsequent two years of further 0% promises will produce enough hardship and community crisis that you will simply erode people's trust in you as a local government. I am requesting a stand of strong leaders, admission of mistakes and reconsideration of these cuts on the whole before major problems become our new reality. I am requesting a decrease in political motive and an increase in heart.

Thank you for your serious consideration,

Chris Moss (Resident Ward 5)