

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 2016
FROM:	KATE GRAHAM, DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION
SUBJECT:	CITY OF LONDON 2017 PROVINCIAL BUDGET SUBMISSION – CITY BUILDING IS NATION BUILDING

RECOMMENDATIO

That, on the recommendation of the Director, Community & Economic Innovation, the following actions be taken with respect to the City of London 2017 Provincial Budget Submission:

- a) That Civic Administration **BE DIRECTED** to submit the City of London 2017 Provincial Budget Submission to the Government of Ontario as part of the provincial pre-budget submission process; and,
- b) That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee – May 5, 2016 – Shift Rapid Transit Business Case
- Community and Protective Services Committee – October 18, 2016 – London’s Homeless Prevention System Enumeration Results and London’s Emergency Shelters Progress Report: 2011-2015
- Corporate Services Committee – November 15, 2016 – Federal Budget Submission

BACKGROUND

The City of London’s 2015-2019 Strategic Plan Vision outlines a commitment to establish London as “a leader in commerce, culture, and innovation – our region’s connection to the world.” City Council has set clear priorities on initiatives that will require partnerships with federal and provincial governments. Council’s Strategic Plan identifies four strategic areas of focus: strengthening our community; building a sustainable city; growing our economy; and, leading in public service. The City of London’s 2017 Budget Submission, City Building is Nation Building (Appendix A), has been developed in full recognition that advancing our strategic initiatives around Rapid Transit, homelessness prevention and housing, and economic development will meaningfully address key performance indicators in all four key areas of focus.

The Submission reflects input from across all City of London Service Areas, as well as partners including the Housing Development Corporation and Western University. A conscious effort was made to keep this document consistent with the federal pre-budget submission completed in November, while illustrating the vital role the province plays as a partner in supporting the City’s top priorities.

Shift – Our Rapid Transit Initiative

The City of London recognizes the Government of Ontario’s commitment to closing the infrastructure gap through *Moving Ontario Forward* and Phase One of the *Investing in Canada Plan*. These investments will advance key city-building projects and help to address the broader infrastructure needs of our City and our region.

London is Canada’s largest City without a Rapid Transit system. City Council has directed Civic Administration to continue to engage the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to bring Rapid Transit to London. Since the City’s submission of the Shift Business Case in May of this year, staff have been working closely with officials from the Ministry of Transportation in reviewing the technical details of this project. The Government of Ontario will be working closely with the federal government to establish agreements under the *Investing in Canada Plan* – the \$81 billion, 11 year plan which would see transformational investments into public transit, social

infrastructure and green infrastructure. In the meantime, it is critical that the other levels of government continue to see rapid transit as London’s top priority.

Homeless Prevention and Housing

In Budget 2016, the Government of Canada announced its commitment to consulting with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments toward the development of a National Housing Strategy. Such a strategy would provide greater financial certainty for cities and communities across the country that are actively involved in providing social and affordable housing to citizens.

Civic administration have heard from officials with the Ontario Ministry of Housing as recently as December that, with public consultations complete, municipal input into the National Housing Strategy will flow entirely through the provinces. It is essential that the province is aware of London’s priorities for a National Housing Strategy, so that these priorities can be reinforced in the context of provincial/federal consultations on the design of the NHS.

Economic Development

In the 2016 Provincial Budget, the Government of Ontario announced the concept of an ‘Innovation SuperCorridor’ stretching from London to Ottawa, with the intention of connecting the hotspots of innovators in technology and related industries. To date, very few details have emerged regarding the Corridor.

London’s emerging medical technology sector represents a unique offering which could become a key component of the Innovation SuperCorridor. To this end, the City of London will be promoting the London Medical Network (LMN) in their proposal for a Centre for Medical Innovation. Through a self-sustaining funding model, the LMN would leverage public and private investments to incubate and grow medical technology start-up companies and serve as a hub to attract additional companies and talent in Southwestern Ontario.

Conclusion

The City of London’s 2017 Provincial Budget Submission – City Building is Nation Building – will present made-in-London solutions to the Government of Ontario on the urban challenges of transportation, homelessness prevention and housing, and economic development in our City.

PREPARED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
ADAM THOMPSON MANAGER, GOVERNMENT AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS	KATE GRAHAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION



City Building is Nation Building

Seizing Opportunities as Our Region's Connection to the World

Pre-Budget Submission to the Government of Ontario

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INTRODUCTION

London is uniquely positioned as a mid-sized regional centre –

Mid-sized cities are an untapped wealth of potential. Cities like London stand out by combining access to large export markets, skilled workforce, and first-class facilities with greater affordability and a strong sense of community. The social and economic productivity of mid-sized cities has the potential to raise quality of life for entire regions.

Southwestern Ontario is a unique region both provincially and nationally. Of the ten mid-sized Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) in Canada, six are in Southwestern Ontario. London is the economic, social, and cultural centre of Southwestern Ontario and we know that our success as a city is inextricably linked to the success of our region. In the same way, the success of our whole region depends on the success of our cities.

In its' recent discussion paper, *Making Mid-Sized the Right Size*, Evergreen CityWorks found that mid-sized cities “are at a critical point, with a unique opportunity to re-imagine themselves.” London has been paving the way with innovative social programs, a transformative transit plan, and industry leading businesses. By building a stronger city, we are building a stronger region, province and country. London’s City Council has laid out a bold strategic plan with four clear priorities:

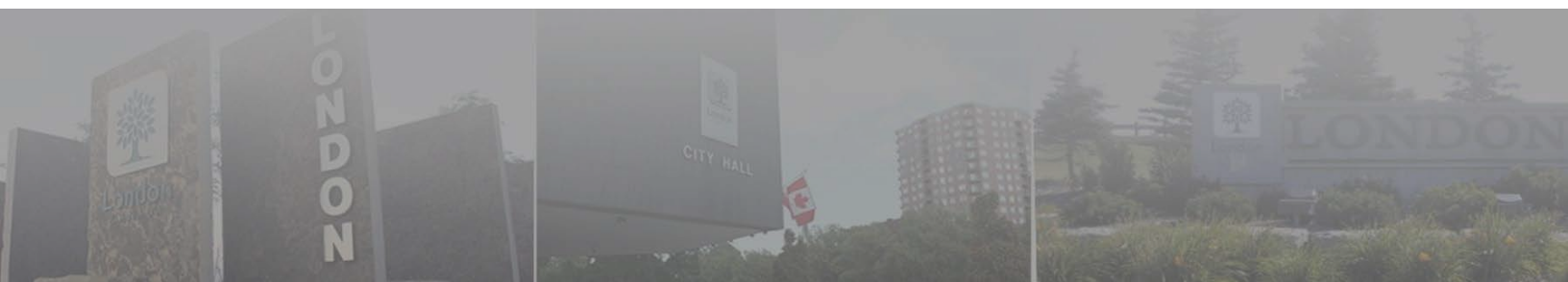
Strengthening our Communities **Building a Sustainable City** **Growing our Economy** **Leading in Public Service**

These pillars drive our work as a city and as a leader in Southwestern Ontario. These are the key planks shaping the vision of London as “A leader in commerce, culture, and innovation — our region’s connection to the world.”

London is planning for the future of our city and our region, and we have the opportunity now to help ensure that future through investments in three key areas:

- Investing in Public Transit through the SHIFT Rapid Transit Plan
- Ensuring access to safe, suitable housing and ending homelessness
- Bolstering London’s innovative medical technology sector

Ontario’s continued success depends on strong cities. By working together to ensure London is ready to face the future, we can continue to fill our role in Southwestern Ontario as an economic engine, a cultural centre, and a hub for innovation. Our region’s connection to the world.



RAPID TRANSIT



Shift is a transformational city-building initiative for London –

Shift – London's Rapid Transit Initiative – will provide the foundation of our transit and transportation system. Shift will create jobs, grow our economy, support vibrant neighbourhoods, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Rapid transit is a natural evolution of the transit system in London.

The City of London is thankful for the Government of Ontario's commitment to closing the infrastructure gap through *Moving Ontario Forward* and Phase One of the *Investing in Canada Plan*. These investments will advance key city-building projects and help to address the broader infrastructure needs of our City and our region.

“ London is the largest city in Canada without a Rapid Transit system ”

The London Transit Commission currently provides more than 22 million trips per year, but is unable to keep up with present demand. Shift will support London's transit needs now and in the future. Over the next 20 years, London will continue to grow by an estimated **77,000 new residents and 43,000 more jobs**. That kind of growth can't be supported by our current transit infrastructure.

Rapid Transit will unlock London's full potential. It will connect our world class education and healthcare institutions with our award-winning neighbourhoods and employers.

Shift will eliminate almost
252,000 tonnes
of CO₂ emissions by 2050

The construction of a BRT
system will create
5,500 employment years'
worth of good jobs

56% of London's jobs will
be within walking distance
of the proposed Rapid Transit
system.

Our full Bus Rapid Transit system will provide reliable, affordable transportation enabling all Londoners to access fundamental needs like employment, housing, and social supports. It will also provide enhanced accessibility, and a fully accessible transit system means no one is left out as a result of limited access to suitable transportation.

Best of all, Shift is a shovel-ready project that could start paying dividends in 2018. The Quick Start line, connecting Fanshawe College to downtown, could be operational in short order, demonstrating the benefits of rapid transit and kick-starting transit culture in London.

London is seeking a strategic funding partnership from federal and provincial governments to bring a transformative Rapid Transit system to our City.



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND HOUSING

Governments across the country have drawn a line in the sand on poverty –

Too many Canadians are forced to choose between paying the rent and sending the kids to school with a healthy lunch. The City of London is taking steps to address poverty, starting with our poverty reduction roadmap, *A London For All*. This action plan recognizes the fundamental need for safe, affordable housing as one of its key priorities: 'Homeless Prevention and Housing'.

There is no silver bullet to end poverty, but it is clear that suitable housing is the stable footing on which a better life is built.

Homelessness Prevention

The City of London commends the province on setting the ambitious goal of ending homelessness by 2025. Homelessness is a national problem which can only be solved at the local level, and The City of London is leading the way on the innovative community partnerships that will make it happen.

Leveraging the existing strengths of our community organizations is a key element of London's plan to solve homelessness through a collaborative, principled Housing First approach.

Local initiatives include:

- ***Street Level Women at Risk***, a collaborative of 24 diverse organizations providing rapid response, housing with intensive in-home support and a health, wellbeing and community belonging component for street involved sex workers.
- ***London CARES***, which provides a dedicated response to local veterans experiencing chronic and persistent homelessness based on a highly collaborative community-based approach.
- ***The Court Order to Reside Pilot Project***, which has ended a twenty year practice of providing emergency shelter to individuals placed on a Judicial Interim Release Order. Instead, a broader Justice to Home response prevents individuals from being ordered into homelessness, improve health outcomes and decrease recidivism.

London is also part of the national solution to end homelessness through participation in enumeration activities. Creating by-name lists of individuals and families experiencing homelessness increases the City of London's ability to match individuals with the greatest need to housing and supports.

However, the reality is that no amount of creative, innovative, passionate work on this front can succeed without sufficient investments from our provincial and federal partners. Mid-sized cities still receive just a fraction of the funding larger cities do on a per-capita basis. Large cities certainly need significant funding to tackle homelessness in their communities, but the total investment in eliminating homelessness should be increased in a way that recognizes the needs of mid-sized cities as well. In this way, all Ontario communities can take the big steps necessary to eliminate homelessness.

The City of London encourages the provincial government to continue investments into Housing First programs and initiatives, in a way that provides cities with the autonomy they need to affect local change.



Housing

Each Unit of New Affordable Housing...
... stabilizes a family in core housing need.
... creates long-term sustainable infrastructure.
... creates approx. 3 fulltime equivalent jobs for one year.

Canada's housing crisis is a national problem which weighs heavily on cities. In London, 2,550 households are currently on the waitlist for affordable housing, and countless more are living in housing that is not safe, suitable, or secure. Compounding the issue is London's low vacancy rate: one-bedroom apartments have a vacancy rate of just 2.2%, and many of those available are priced above average market rent.

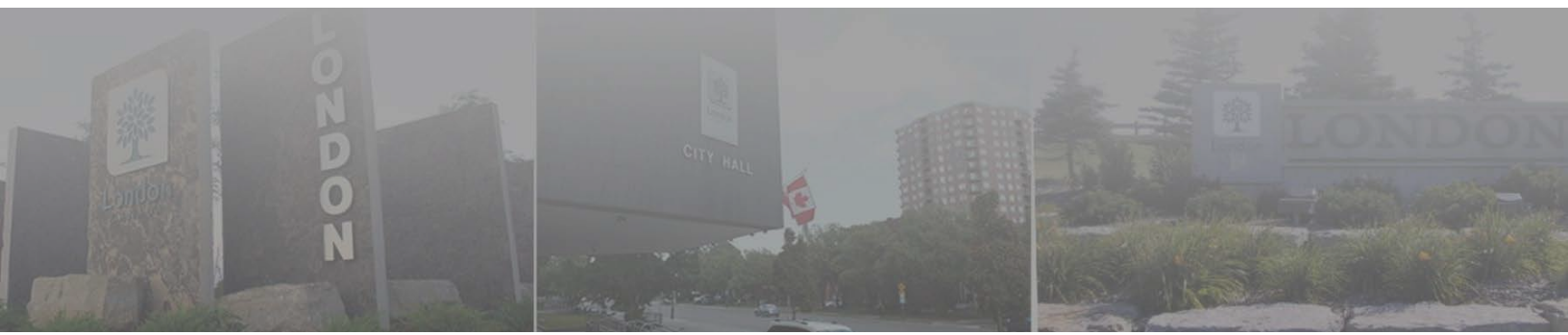
The federal government is in the process of creating a National Housing Strategy, which will require collaboration with provincial and territorial governments. The City of London supports significant allocation from the *Investing in Canada Fund* in order to bridge the affordable housing infrastructure gap.

Opportunities to maximize the impact of a National Housing Strategy include:

- Establishing enabling affordable housing policies in all sectors, such as making surplus lands available.
- Flexible financial resources that align with local needs, program development and outcomes, rather than forcing programs to be created in response to funding requirements.
- Taking a housing first approach when developing policies and programs in support of health, mental health, addictions, criminal justice, and other sectors, following best practices related to integrated mixed communities.
- Embedding these commitments not only in the National Housing Strategy, but also in the Government of Ontario's budgets, policies, programs, and relations with municipalities as partners in local plans and solutions.
- Ensuring effective and critical time-limited pilot initiatives, like the Survivors of Domestic Violence Portable Benefit Payment, don't abruptly lose funding, which has the effect of downloading that new responsibility to service managers.

As the city at the centre of the Southwestern Ontario region, London must provide supports well beyond just those required by the residents living within the city limits. As the Government of Canada establishes the guidelines for a National Housing Strategy, the Province of Ontario will play a critical role in ensuring that sufficient consideration is given to the varying needs of Ontario cities, including mid-sized cities like London.

London is calling on the Government of Ontario to ensure the needs of mid-sized cities are represented in discussions surrounding a National Housing Strategy.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

London is ready for the future of medical innovation –

London has a rich and storied history of leadership in the healthcare field going back over 100 years. Our healthcare sector is thriving, **directly employing 24,000 people** and generating research and expertise that is transformative on a global scale. London is continuing to build on our legacy as a hub for innovation in medicine.

It is an exciting time in London as our city seizes on our local medical research and technology expertise to export Canadian ingenuity and innovation to the world. The medical technology sector is poised for significant growth, and local businesses and entrepreneurs are already leading in uniting a truly breakthrough global industry.

The Government of Ontario's 2016 budget announced plans to create an Innovation SuperCorridor from London to Ottawa. London's innovative medical research and technology sector is primed to be a leader in the global impacts possible through Ontario's own innovation network.

Partners from both the public and private sectors in London's medical innovation space have created a plan to establish a **centre for medical innovation** to bring innovative new technologies to national and international markets. The London Medical Network's (LMN) is bringing together public partners in FedDev and the City of London, with Western University and private businesses to revolutionize the commercialization of medical research and innovation. This investment will create a physical centre where London's internationally established businesses like Trudell Medical, Starlim, and 3M can collaborate with world-class researchers and new entrepreneurs.

LMN will serve as an innovation incubator to foster new ideas, establish new enterprises, and grow existing businesses. LMN will attract transformative investments to Southwestern Ontario, create over 550 new high-skill, high-value jobs in the region over the next 10 years, and enable the launch of new, market-disrupting technologies. Strategically located on North America's busiest trade route, LMN will also leverage Southwestern Ontario's strength as one of the most representative trial markets for other jurisdictions nationally and internationally.

The City of London is calling on the Government of Ontario to work with our established network of public and private partners to leverage London's medical technology expertise as a pillar of the Innovation SuperCorridor.

