

**From:** Robert Illingworth  
**Date:** February 4, 2017 at 4:51:04 PM EST  
**To:** "Salih, Mo Mohamed" <[msalih@london.ca](mailto:msalih@london.ca)>  
**Subject:** Requesting delegate status

Dear Councillor Salih

As Chair please request **delegate status** on my behalf before the Community and Protective Services Committee to orally address the Committee re: the issue of housing and ODSP residents as presented in the following email:

The Province, through the Ministry of Housing (MOH), began providing Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding to Service Managers as of January 2013. CHPI is the consolidation of five previous homelessness prevention programs intended to create a single flexible funding envelope to better meet local needs.

Through the Province's Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update released March 2016, it was identified that an additional \$30M would be added incrementally to CHPI over the next two fiscal years, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019, for a total of \$324M in annual investments across the province. Local allocations were announced on October 4, 2016, and on November 2, 2016 London received confirmation of the 2019/2020 expected allocation.

Housing Stability Bank The Housing Stability Bank offers financial assistance to low income Londoners to obtain and retain their housing and offers financial assistance to those at risk of homelessness to remain housed. The Housing Stability Bank provides rental assistance, emergency utility assistance, Ontario Electricity Support Program and provides referrals to community resources. The Housing Stability Bank is offered by The Salvation Army Centre of Hope in cooperation with the City of London, London Hydro and Union Gas.

**The funding has been provided by the Province.** It is the decision of the City as to how it is spent.

Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative is **100 percent provincial funding** with up to 10 percent allowed for administration. This funding increase has no net financial impact on the City's approved 2017-2019 Operating Budget. This additional **CHPI funding will enhance existing programs and services and add new programs** to support the Province's goal to end chronic homelessness in 10 years and achieve the actions under London's Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan. The 2017 CHPI Investment Plan will incorporate the impact of this funding announcement.

\* \* \* London's Housing Stability Fund in 2013 had grants built-in to assist those with ODSP incomes. I don't know why a decision was made to convert assistance to repayable loans. This offers no assistance to those on the meagre incomes provided by ODSP. Parents of adult children on ODSP have made many sacrifices throughout their lives to assist and provide for these vulnerable individuals. Many of these parents are seniors and their only wish is to see their adult child living in a safe environment geared to his/her level of independence.

The Province chose to amalgamate funding programs to address the housing needs of the disadvantaged. A large portion of this funding was taken from the grant start-up funds for ODSP clients (provided grant assistance for first and last month's rent, moving costs, furniture etc.).

The Municipalities were given the funding in the hope that they would address these needs at the local level. Other cities in Ontario have chosen to continue a system of grants. London has chosen a less compassionate approach and offers repayable loans through its service provider (Salvation Army) .

I challenge any politician to provide a budget based on ODSP (approx. \$1000./mth) which will address:

a) competing in private sector rent market ( many of these parents have been on waiting lists for 11 years or more for funding for a support worker and are then faced with another long waiting list for housing - in addition many of the geared-to-income buildings are not safe environments for the vulnerable living independently)

b) tenant insurance

c) food, clothing, personal needs, cable, telephone, first and last month's rent, furnishings etc.

Many parents have depleted their personal funds and are not in a position to fund all these needs to facilitate the independent living of their adult children in safe, independent environments.

The meagre provision of repayable loans is an affront to the disabled and their parents who are residents of the City. Many of these disabled individuals have their finances managed by the Ontario Public Guardian and Trustee. It would not be prudent money management to approve the taking-on of repayable loans by these individuals.

I believed that society was moving in a more respectful and compassionate direction in relation to the most vulnerable. If this is a one-way street, then London must drive with great caution because it is driving in the wrong direction.

**Please inform me of the decision of the Committee. If I haven't followed the correct procedure to obtain status, please inform me of the correct procedure.**

Regards  
Robert Illingworth