

Thank you - opportunity to appear

I want to thank - Councillors - email

Unfortunately, it appears - Mayor -
Deputy Mayor

Didn't consider the issue worthy of
response

One can surmise - not an issue to garner
Political points or photo- opps

However today - I will present a realistic
picture of the plight of many odsp clients
In relation to housing

I'm sure each one of you have observed
In malls & grocery stores - elderly parent
Assisting adult age son/daughter with
shopping

These parents have many needs
themselves

Supplant their needs for those of the adult sons/daughters – no annual Florida trips
- their wishes for their children are no different than you or me *I wish for ours.*

They wish to see their adult son/daughter live a life which coincides with his/her level of independence

ODSP clients attempt to survive on very limited funds – cover basic needs and shelter

As emphasized by Council – London Signatory to the world Compassionate City Charter

As the Charter emphasizes:
in a Compassionate Community, people are motivated by compassion to take responsibility for and care for each other through compassion-driven actions

London's Strategic Plan - goals

Work to always be a compassionate city to all. To eliminate barriers

HOMELESS PREVENTION & HOUSING PLAN 2010 - 2024

-to ensure the multiple and often complex needs of each person are recognized and addressed in a holistic way.

Ontario Human Rights Commission website:

The protections in the Code overlap with the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which requires signatories, including Canada, to take appropriate measures to ensure the independence and full participation of people with disabilities in housing. When people with disabilities are discriminated against, or excluded from housing, this leads to further

exclusion, isolation and stereotyping – all of which can lead to institutionalization, homelessness and further discrimination

This brings me to the London Housing Stability Fund

-to assist low-income Londoners obtain and retain housing

ODSP clients are doubly disadvantaged

- low-income and with a disability

- often on waiting lists in excess of 12 years to obtain independent living supports – in addition, face housing waiting lists

- turn to private housing market – higher rents – looking for safe and secure housing

**What does the “compassionate city” of London offer through the Housing Stability Bank – interest free loans
To assist with last month’s rent**

So let's set the scenario facing an ODSP client in realizing an independent living situation:

-furnishings – telephone- 1st & last month's rent – moving costs – in some situations – hydro, water -cable tv & internet are out of the question

- All this in addition maintaining daily living expenses

In what way does piling a repayable loan on top of all of this demonstrate compassion?

- the frequent result is the client defaults on the loan – this results in embarrassment and damaged self-esteem

Those individuals on odsp whose only desire is to leave the protective environment of the parental home and live in an independent, but supportive environment, find themselves trapped until the parents decease and then are faced with a life in shelters, nursing homes or, given their finances, are forced to seek out unlicenced group homes. London has experienced the tragedy of this type of group home living.

These individuals only seek the independence as experienced by others of their age.

The Province has allocated 41 million dollars over 4 years to fight homelessness

There are other cities which provide funds as a grant

London provides grants, not repayable loans to non-profit agencies, this includes grants for the buying land, buildings and renovations. These serve a purpose; however, how does a compassionate city justify non-repayable grants to agencies and yet deny small grants to assist the city's most vulnerable in realizing a dream which most take for granted - pride, self-esteem and a sense of independence.

A compassionate city would but London won't.