



May 9, 2018

City Clerk's Office
Planning and Environment Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue London,
Ontario N6A 4L9

Attention: Chairman Turner & Members of the Planning and Environment Committee

RE: Supervised Consumption Facility (SCF)

Dear Chairman Turner & Members of the Planning and Environment Committee:

We write to support the City in its efforts to find a solution to the opioid and injection drug epidemic in our community. On behalf of the Board of Directors, London and Middlesex Housing Corporation (LMHC) wants to participate in fulfilling the need for Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) in our community. Evidence shows that such services would be utilized in London. There is public support but facility siting is often a significant hurdle.

Supervised consumptions services can play a critical role in the health and well-being of those using illicit substances. Such services reduce overdose deaths, the spread of such infectious diseases as HIV and hepatitis C as well as bacterial infections. Individuals using such services may also access other critical supports including health care and mental health services, education and treatment programs. As the largest social housing provider in London and Middlesex County, we know that these support services are needed by our tenants and citizens in our community who are addicted to opioids.

Like many communities, London is searching for a permanent site to establish a Supervised Consumption Facility (SCF). At LMHC, our new vision centres on healthy homes and communities in London and Middlesex and making a difference by positively impacting lives using housing as the foundation. As such, the Board endorses the use of 241 Simcoe Street for the purposes of establishing a permanent SCF in partnership with the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU) and Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC).

That being said, LMHC is seeking clarification on clause 2(f) of the proposed by-law to amend The London Plan for the City of London, 2016 relating to Supervised Consumption Facilities and Temporary Overdose Prevention Sits as well as clause 2(vi) of the proposed by-law to amend the Official Plan for the City of London, 1989 relating to Supervised Consumption Facilities and Temporary Overdose Prevention Sites. The two identical clauses relate to locations that avoid land use conflicts, that being "not located within the interior of a residential neighbourhood." Based on the interpretation of what constitutes the interior of a residential neighbourhood, 241 Simcoe Street could unintentionally be disqualified for a SCF and/or become problematic in the application to Health Canada and the re-zoning process given that Council has already endorsed the site as a potential location for a permanent supervised consumption site.

LMHC wants to be part of the solution to social issues in our community by showing that we CARE and by taking action. In partnership with the MLHU and RHAC, we can leverage/share a community asset (public housing) for the benefit of all while improving tenant safety and increasing support services in social housing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Buzzelli', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Buzzelli, PhD
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Josh Browne, CPA, CGA, BAccS, AIHM
Chief Executive Officer