

January 17, 2020

City Clerks Office
Barb Westlake-Power, Deputy City Clerk
300 Dufferin Avenue
PO Box 5035
London, ON N6A 1V5

Re: Delegation Status at Budget Public Participation Meeting

Dear Ms. Westlake-Power

Andrew, Steph and Ken, tenants of 241 Simcoe Street, London, Ontario and residents of a London Middlesex Community Housing (LMCH) building would like to formally request delegation status. We wish to be added to the agenda at the Budget Public Participation Meeting (SPPC) schedule on either January 23, 2020 or February 13, 2020 to address the Budget as it relates to social housing.

Ken Taylor has been a resident for 17 years, Andrew Leistra has been a resident for 7 years and Stephanie Dolan has lived at 241 Simcoe St for 5 years. We want to present at the Budget Public Participation Meeting because our homes and other LMCH homes are in dire need of repairs and security upgrades. We need the city to help by adequately funding housing so that people are not living in broken down units. We understand that vacancy and homelessness in London is a big concern, but it is equally important to have a livable standard of life for those who are moving into and living in social housing.

At 241 Simcoe St, there 217 units and for this building, we do not have a full time maintenance person or a full time on site support staff. We have only one resident contact, who has been managing after hours emergencies alone for over 2 years. Maintenance of the building is badly delayed, with basic repairs often taking months or even years to complete, if at all. 241 Simcoe St has a high level of unwanted visitors and disruptive trespassers. We currently have a pilot project with security guards at our building at night, which has helped improve safety. But this is only a pilot and there is no guarantee of it continuing because there is no significant budget for security. We often hear from tenants that people would prefer to be homeless than live in our building because of the maintenance issues and security problems. Ultimately, these issues require more money in the budget so that they can be adequately addressed.

We look forward to meeting with the City of London and the opportunity to discuss this important and valuable City asset – public housing. Please kindly confirm our status.

Sincerely,

Ken Taylor, Stephanie Dolan & Andrew (Eve) Leistra

CC: Sandra Datars Bere, Managing Director, Housing, Social Services, & Dearnness Home