

From: Shelley Yeo

Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 5:00 PM

To: Hopkins, Anna <ahopkins@london.ca>; Kayabaga, Arielle <akayabaga@london.ca>; City of London, Mayor <mayor@london.ca>; Pelosa, Elizabeth <epelosa@london.ca>; Helmer, Jesse <jhelmer@london.ca>; Morgan, Josh <joshmorgan@london.ca>; Cassidy, Maureen <mcassidy@london.ca>; van Holst, Michael <mvanholst@london.ca>; Salih, Mo Mohamed <msalih@london.ca>; Van Meerbergen, Paul <pvanmeerbergen@london.ca>; Squire, Phil <psquire@london.ca>; Lewis, Shawn <slewis@london.ca>; Turner, Stephen <sturner@london.ca>; Lehman, Steve <slehman@london.ca>; Hillier, Steven <shillier@london.ca>

Cc: Jessie Rodger <JessieR@anovafuture.org>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Budget Comments

Dear Councillors

I am writing with my comments regarding the upcoming 4 year Budget Plan. I am concerned that this budget be inclusive of addressing housing and homelessness as a priority. The City has declared that the issue of lack of housing and large numbers of homeless people is a crisis. It would be imperative that we address the crisis with a commitment to financial assistance in order to address this crisis. If the Budget is aligned with the Strategic Plan and the Housing Stability for All Plan then we will need to see some substantial financial commitments to move these plans forward. Since the devolution of Social Housing to the Municipalities from the Province approximately 20 years ago there has been very little investment into Public or Social Housing. Many individuals and families depend on Public/Social Housing and have made recommendations which were included in the Housing Stability for All Plan during consultations in 2019. New "affordable" housing units are needed; 5 – 7 years is the average wait time for social housing; 300 units need to be created each year to close the gap; London ranks 4th nationally for individuals and families living within Core Housing Need. These are all issues that were identified during this past year, not to mention the increased visibility of our own community folks who are living on the streets. We need more Public Housing stock; we need to invest in capital improvements of our current Public Housing stock (London Middlesex Community Housing); Our Public Housing and Social Housing providers need to be able to provide supports to many of the tenants who are high acuity as it relates to mental health concerns and addictions.

Until we begin to invest in our housing and other supports this crisis will remain and become increasingly worse in the City of London. Please consider investing in Public Housing, Social Housing, Supports and Security for both. The City of London has a leadership role in ensuring that all citizens have access to housing they can afford in neighbourhoods where they feel safe and connected. Investing in Housing Stability for All is investing in healthy community.

Thanks very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Shelley Yeo
Assistant Executive Director
Anova