

# Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee Report

7th Meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee  
February 13, 2020

**PRESENT:** Mayor E. Holder (Chair), Councillors M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozo, A. Kayabaga, S. Hillier

**ALSO PRESENT:** L. Livingstone, B. Baar, A.L. Barbon, B. Card, S. Chambers, S. Datars Bere, J. Davies, A. Dunbar, M. Galczynski, G. Kotsifas, S. Mathers, J. P. McGonigle, J. Millson, K. Murray, D. O'Brien, A. Rammeloo, M. Ribera, C. Saunders, M. Schulthess, C. Smith, J. Taylor, B. Westlake-Power, P. Yeoman

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

## 1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor S. Turner discloses a pecuniary interest in matters associated with the funding for the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU), by indicating that the MLHU is his employer. Councillor S. Turner further discloses a pecuniary interest in matters associated with children's services, specifically with funding for Childreach, by indicating that his spouse is employed by Childreach.

Councillor J. Helmer discloses a pecuniary interest in the golf operating budget, by indicating that his father is an employee of the National Golf Course Owners Association, and the City is a member of the Association.

## 2. Consent

None.

## 3. Scheduled Items

### 3.1 Not to be heard before 6:00 PM - Public Participation Meeting - 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget

Moved by: Mayor E. Holder  
Seconded by: M. Salih

That the following written submissions for the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget 2020 Public Participation Meeting BE RECEIVED for consideration by the Municipal Council as part of its Multi-Year Budget approval process:

- a) a communication dated January 28, 2020 from J. Larsh, Chair, Argyle Community Association;
- b) a communication from K. Taylor, S. Dolan and A. Leistra;
- c) a communication dated January 24, 2020 from C. West, All Aboard St. Marys and AllRoads Dodge Chrysler Jeep Limited;
- d) a communication dated January 27, 2020 from S. Yeo, Assistant Executive Director, Anova;
- e) a communication from C. Dunne, USC Vice President;
- f) a communication dated January 30, 2020 from A. Longhurst;
- g) a communication from D. Hall, Executive Director, London CycleLink;
- h) a communication from N. Needham, Executive Director, South London Neighbourhood Resource Centre;

- i) a communication dated February 11, 2020 from B. Cowie, PhD Earth and Planetary Sciences, London Bicycle Cafe;
- j) a communication from the Advisory Committee on the Environment;
- k) a communication dated February 11, 2020 from C. Stewart, Project Manager Employment Sector Council;
- l) a communication dated February 12, 2020 from D. Sheppard, Executive Director, ReForest London;
- m) a communication dated February 10, 2020 from M. A. Dowding, Board Chair, Fanshawe, Pioneer Village, London & Middlesex Heritage Museum;
- n) a communication dated February 12, 2020 from N. Forero, Immploy Project Manager;
- o) a communication from M. Does;

it being pointed out that at the public participation meeting associated with this matter, the individuals on the attached public participation meeting record made oral submissions regarding these matters.

Yeas: (14): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, A. Kayabaga, and S. Hillier  
 Absent: (1): S. Lewis

**Motion Passed (14 to 0)**

Moved by: E. Pelozza  
 Seconded by: A. Hopkins

Motion to open the Public Participation Meeting.

Yeas: (14): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, A. Kayabaga, and S. Hillier  
 Absent: (1): S. Lewis

**Motion Passed (14 to 0)**

Moved by: M. Salih  
 Seconded by: M. van Holst

Motion to close the Public Participation Meeting.

Yeas: (15): Mayor E. Holder, M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, A. Kayabaga, and S. Hillier

**Motion Passed (15 to 0)**

**4. Items for Direction**

None.

**5. Deferred Matters/Additional Business**

None.

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

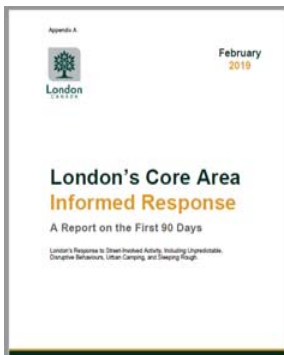
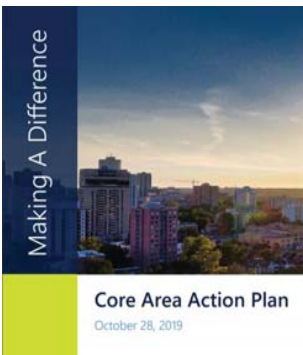
## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

### 3.1 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget – Public Participation

- D. Szoller (Advisory Committee on the Environment) – speaking in favour of greenhouse gas reduction milestones; noting support for business case 1, particularly with respect to the introduction of a green bin program, and support for business cases 7A and 7B.
- J. Pastorius, Old East Village BIA – speaking in support of the Core Area Action Plan initiatives, particularly those that support businesses, as per the attached presentation.
- G. Brumitt, D. Hill, C. Jamieson and Chesney (Nokee Kwe Employment and Education Centre/Positive voice) – speaking in support of the continuation of the community grant funding and sharing some experiences and stories in support of that funding, in accordance with the attached communication.
- Luis – speaking in support of those who are not able to attend, and sharing his experience and difficulties in securing employment that requires owning a vehicle, and suggesting that vehicle ownership is a necessity in London.
- M. Metcalf – speaking in favour of additional support approved for the London Transit Commission; speaking in support of business cases 7A and 7B, as well as the street lighting program.
- S. Shrum (Employment Sector Council, Pathways) – speaking in support for funding for the Employment Sector Council by advising how they assist to keep residents in London and being a partner for the City of London.
- Hailey – requesting support for the cycling master plan and contributions to this endeavour, noting that the current contributions are not adequate.
- W. Rogers, St. James Street – encouraging avoidance of taking on services that have been reduced or discontinued by other levels of government or using non-permanent funding; noting support for continued wifi hot-spot lending and additional matters within the budget; and suggesting alternatives for homeowners who may wish to assist with housing, in accordance with the attached communication.
- Remarra – noting that she is appalled that Council would approve \$2 million for Theatre London renovations during a housing and addiction crisis; noting a ‘food desert’ in downtown London; sharing her housing story including being moved to housing that is a walk-up and she is a senior; suggesting that pedestrians require additional room to navigate areas.
- C. Deschenes – speaking in support of climate change emergency initiatives and the green bin program, as noted in the attached communication; and suggesting that additional work needs to be done to reduce CO2 emissions.
- K. Wright (London Community Dental Alliance) – requesting support for oral healthcare clinic, with specific reference to the barriers facing people needing dental care.
- N. Spriet (Chair, Pillar Network) – speaking in support the continued contributions and availability of the community grants program, particularly noting the stability that the multi-year funding can provide, in accordance with the attached communication.
- Lacey – suggesting that the indigenous population is under-represented in the city in London, and are specifically excluded from services.

- S. Pillon and M. Easton (Women in Politics) – suggesting that the budget is not explicit enough with respect to the strategic initiative to make London a safe place for women and girls; noting that a report will be coming forward to Council related to the UN safe city initiative.
- A. Harvey (Student, Antler River Rally) – speaking in support of the Back to the River revitalization project, and funding for river health projects (including but not limited to sewage separation).
- A. Valastro – speaking against increase of water rates, in addition to various water rates for residents that appear to be subsidizing other users including industry and multi-residential; encouraging full disclosure of all rates; noting opposition to the Back to the River projects.
- Julie and Jamie (Safe Space London) – speaking in favour of continuation of the community grant programs, at the current levels, but providing information related to the operation and importance of Safe Space London.
- M. Drost (L'Arche London) – speaking in support of continuation of the community grant programs, providing information as to how funds have been used by the organization.
- T. Cull – concurring with comments made by Antler River Rally, and in support of the climate emergency initiatives; sharing a poem written for the 2017 Resilience Conference.
- V. Van Linden – speaking in support of the direction in support of housing and initiatives in the core; requesting that Council not fund the Back to the River project in order to ensure that adequate funds are available for services.
- R. Bloomfield (Urban Roots London) – speaking in support of the direction to maintain the community grant program and requesting that funding for the program be increased; requesting the prioritization of vulnerable people in the budget expenditures.
- A. Cantell (ReForest London) – noting support for the continuation of the community grant program, and providing background for how organizations use a variety of sources to find funding.
- J. Rodger (Anova) – speaking in support of continued support of the community grant program, and providing information related to how organizations are also challenged to maintain supports; providing support for initiatives like UN Safe cities, and making London safe for women and girls, noting that these require funding.
- Resident – noting her volunteer work for the information of Council, and advising that she has been a client of Anova; requesting support for free transit, not free parking.
- M. Hodge – speaking in support of the funding for the climate change emergency initiatives; encouraging consideration of future projects with a low carbon impact and support for transit initiatives.
- Julia (Ward 4 Youth Councillor) - noting shock at some of the decisions, and indicating support for the continuation of the community grant program.
- L. George (Oneida Nation) – speaking in support of Positive Voice, and noting the need for continuation of the program; requesting that transit subsidy be continued.
- M. Horak – noting support for important programming that has been approved; noting the challenge of balancing this programming with capital costs; further noting the implications of planning decisions on urban density and infrastructure costs.
- M. Moussa – noting an objection to a tax increase in excess of 4% annually; noting that this task is not easy, but that the exercise is forcing people out of their homes.

Thank you!



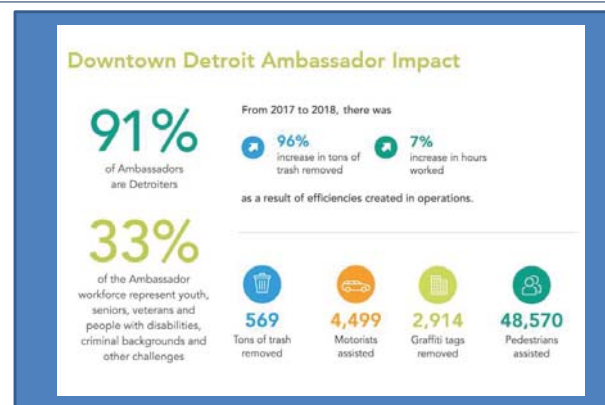
## Those experiencing homelessness or health related issues need help



## People Need to Feel Safe and Secure



## People Need to Feel Safe and Secure



## Successful Business Environment



## Core Area Needs to Attract More People



## With Thanks!



February 12, 2020

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

Re: Delegation Status for Nokee Kwe's +Positive Voice at Feb. 13 Budget Public Participation Meeting

Dear Ms. Westlake-Power:

Gena Brumitt, President/Chair of London's Nokee Kwe nonprofit/charity; Danielle Hill and Colleen Jamieson, Co-Facilitators of Nokee Kwe's +Positive Voice program; and +Positive Voice program participants wish to formally request delegation status. We ask to be added to the Agenda at the Budget Public Participation Meeting (SPPC) schedule on February 13, 2020, to address the Budget as relates to the **City of London's Community Grants Program**. We understand that we will have a very limited time to speak.

London is nestled between several First Nations communities including Oneida Nation of the Thames, Munsee Delaware Nation and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Many Indigenous people choose to reside OFF-reserve, and live here in London.

According to the City of London website, London's Indigenous population **increased by 42%** from 2011 to 2016. The average age of the Indigenous population in London was 30.9 years, compared to 40 years for the non-Indigenous population.

**From Statistics Canada:**

Just under one-quarter (24%) of Indigenous people who lived in an urban area were in a low-income household in 2016. The number of First Nations people, Métis and Inuit living in cities has been growing for decades. In 2016, more than half of all Indigenous people in Canada lived in a metropolitan area.

In 2017, London's City Council established the Indigenous Relations Working Group, to work with Indigenous communities to implement Truth and Reconciliation Commission report recommendations where possible and appropriate, and **to work with local Indigenous peoples to determine how best to engage and collaborate with each other**. Also, human trafficking is a particular concern for Indigenous people since **Indigenous women make up about 50% of trafficking victims, despite representing only 4% of the Canadian population**.

As you finalize your multi-year budget deliberations, we would like to raise a concern for your consideration. On January 31, 2020, **Ward 2 City Councillor Shawn Lewis introduced a motion to cut funding in 2022-2023, for charities whose funding had been approved by the London Community Grants Program, in alignment with London's Strategic Plan**. Councillor Lewis also referenced earlier comments he had made on this matter in December 2019. **His motion was not successful, but we are concerned that a similar motion might be introduced before the final budget is approved**. We wish to speak to this concern, because we are one of the charities that would be materially impacted.

The London Community Grants Program requires that we only request partial funding. **However, that does not mean this approved funding is not essential.** When charities apply for grants like this one, it is not without significant planning.

Lewis states on his website:

*“When it comes to the “nice to haves”, Council MUST recognize that just because we planned for or we budgeted for something, doesn’t mean it is carved in stone. In past budget debates Councillors have gotten stuck on the idea that we must do something because we had previously planned to do it.”*

The problem with this “wide brushstroke” by Councillor Lewis is that the City of London has a reputation of **standing by its PROMISES. Charities who received notices of funding, relied on the information they received.** This is typical of what charities expect from GRANTORS - they normally understand that charities **rely on** important statements and approvals being accurate.

While we know that multi-year budget considerations are a weighty task, none of us expected that Council might potentially consider cutting major amounts such as a 50% reduction over two years (of four years of funding). For us, this would result in a loss of about \$50,000 over two years. Councillor Lewis’s proposed cuts could significantly impact the ability of certain charity programs of historic value to remain viable!

These proposed reductions are NOT cuts by the Province that were downloaded to the City. The grant we applied for is the City of London’s own Community Grants Program.

**One group that is of particular concern in the London area is urban Indigenous women.** They can suffer from a sense of social isolation living off-reserve, and experience distress due to the loss of their Indigenous culture.

**Urban Indigenous women, young and old, face challenges most Londoners can’t imagine.** After centuries of colonization and discrimination, it’s essential to close gaps and remove barriers, improve quality of life, expand economic opportunities and create comprehensive ways of achieving measurable change for these women through trust, understanding and respect, charting a path toward a brighter future for all.

**Nokee Kwe’s +Positive Voice** is an innovative program that supports the development of positive narratives and positive community connections by urban Indigenous women, 18 years and older, **who are pursuing a transition to employment or education. We are crushing stereotypes, and challenging the portrayal of urban Indigenous women through strength, resilience and accomplishment. Participants may be providing elder care to family members affected by residential schools, experiencing depleting energies, overcoming addiction, fleeing domestic violence, or overcoming human trafficking.**

**Positive Voice makes a BIG difference in the lives of the women this program serves.**

+Positive Voice is a 7-week bridging program that was piloted in London in September 2016. The women who participated received a camera, USB card reader and SD card to assist them in creating digital media. They interacted with guest speakers, Indigenous artists, and government officials. They created memes and infographics, took photos and wrote stories about their experience as Indigenous women. They received prints of their projects and created portfolios to use for future employment and education. Participants also received postcards of their work and a photo book filled with all the participants’ projects.



The program received its most recent funding in 2018 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Over the course of the program, participants are empowered to use media and various technologies to share their stories. The program aims to provide a safe space for the mentorship and empowerment of these women in our community. **We believe in the importance of sharing positive narratives to help build up the capacity of these women.**

**Women in the community came to us and told us what they needed, and we listened.** We learned that reliance on the system felt like standing on shifting sands, and personal experiences of victimization, misogyny, racial slurs, etc., led to negative self-talk and victimization. We designed a program specifically for urban indigenous women **based on their needs**. Successes are founded in participants' connections with their culture, and personal stories of strength, resilience and accomplishment.

The objective of the program is to engage with participants and help them to recognize their own abilities, and create positive connections with the Indigenous community and the community at large. **When they move on to employment, education, self-employment or other next-steps, the foundation pieces that they have learned to reinforce self-esteem, confidence, and their reservoir of accomplishments, are building blocks.**

**Participants make important connections that will allow them to move forward and find success in whatever they choose to do next.**

Nokee Kwe, incorporated in 1983, is an employment and education centre located in south London, operating all of its programs through an Indigenous lens. Nokee Kwe translates to 'working women' in Ojibway. This nonprofit charity was created in 1978 in response to the low employment rate of Indigenous women in the London area. Initially, Nokee Kwe employed women for 26 weeks, giving them a wage while they received instruction and training by the staff such as life skills training, education, technical training, career planning and job placement.

Today... Nokee Kwe offers multiple programs such as Career Directions, and Literacy & Basic Skills. We partner with many other agencies in the London area. We offer culturally sensitive, client-centred, holistic approaches in our work that focuses on identifying and finding solutions to employment and learning barriers. We continue to expand in order to fill important gaps in the educational and training needs of both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations in London and surrounding communities.

+Positive Voice and Mashkawizii ('He/She is Strong!' an Indigenous youth program) are programs that support the Indigenous population specifically. If anything, our objective is to GROW these successes, not diminish them!

+Positive Voice was awarded the 2017 Pillar Community Innovation Award and was a nominee for the 2017 Champion of Mental Health Awards. *"It's clear that you are doing really positive work with +Positive Voice,"* stated former MPP Deb Matthews at the announcement. *"It's having a positive impact on people: not just the individuals who participate, but their family, their children, their communities."*

Our efforts were recognized with the Pillar Community Innovation Award, the highest award for innovation in the non-profit sector for the London area, in November 2017 at an event attended by over 900 attendees. We received extensive media coverage related to our nomination and receiving the Pillar Community Innovation Award and a short documentary was created that publicized our program.

We partnered with the London Public Library and McIntosh Gallery in 2017 and 2018 to hold exhibits of the content created by participants in the program, including photography, stories, memes, infographics, beadwork, and tree of life sculptures. The exhibit openings included speeches by program participants, traditional dancing, spoken word, poetry, singing, and drumming. Attendees at the receptions included friends and family of the participants, community members, and patrons. The September 2017 exhibit received local and national news coverage. The exhibit opening in January 2018 was standing-room-only, and video footage of the opening recorded by a reporter from the London Free Press was viewed 4,388 times.

We also had booths at the Home County Festival, a music and arts festival in July 2017, and the Harvest Festival and Powwow at the Museum of Ontario Archaeology in September 2017. We created a pop-up art gallery and shared hundreds of postcards created by the women. These postcards have travelled all over the world from Europe to Australia to South America, sharing the positive portrayal of London-area Indigenous women and their accomplishments. We also shared their projects on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Check out +Positive Voice online at:

- <http://nokeekwe.ca/positive-voice/>
- [https://twitter.com/\\_PositiveVoice](https://twitter.com/_PositiveVoice)
- <https://www.facebook.com/positivevoiceatnokeekwe/>

Here are some links to articles that highlight the success of Nokee Kwe's +Positive Voice program:

- <https://lfpres.com/2017/01/10/positive-voice-program-at-nokee-kwe-in-london/wcm/d3e2ac4f-b7f5-3169-61d3-31e0fb8e2ab9>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ontario-positive-voice-women-1.5437838>
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/5418319/london-indigenous-solidarity-day-2/>
- <https://lfpres.com/2018/01/14/indigenous-women-tell-their-stories-find-themselves-through-photography/wcm/f7cd178f-0f1d-c913-2470-4145bb049ecd>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/indigenous-women-nokee-kwe-positive-voice-1.4272623>
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/3876641/pillar-community-innovation-awards/>
- <https://alliance2030.ca/spreading-positivity-positive-voice/>

**+Positive Voice disrupts the narrative that exists in the media, of reliance on the system, victimhood, and diminished capacity. It is an HONOUR to hear these women's stories and share them. Working together, with right minds, we raise each other up.**

We are grateful for Nokee Kwe's +Positive Voice representatives to have the opportunity to speak to you about our concerns. Funding from the City of London's Community Grants Program is crucial to our operations over the next four years. Please do not make cuts to this LCG funding! If a motion to do so is on the table, we ask you to vote a resounding "NO."

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Gena Brumitt

President/Chair, Nokee Kwe

Copied to:

Mayor E. Holder (Chair), Councillors M. van Holst, S. Lewis, M. Salih, J. Helmer, M. Cassidy, P. Squire, J. Morgan, S. Lehman, A. Hopkins, P. Van Meerbergen, S. Turner, E. Pelozza, A. Kayabaga, S. Hillier, [jwalter@london.ca](mailto:jwalter@london.ca), [SPPC@london.ca](mailto:SPPC@london.ca)

Good Evening. My name is Walter Rogers and I reside at 675 St James Street, London

I acknowledge that we are meeting on aboriginal lands in the territory covered by the Upper Canada Treaties.

I would like to thank Council and Staff for the many hours of time and debate dealing with the budget and Business Cases and the arrangements made to include the public.

On that note, I would like to offer one observation on the process regarding public participation.

First, the draft of the Multi Year Budget and Business cases was highly available to the public.

However, the ability to track the deliberations of Council to date on the proposed budget was not, unless one watched or attending hours of meetings.

It is my understanding any Council votes regarding the budget prior to this final public participation meeting means those decisions need reconsideration at committee or full Council.

I encourage Council to keep an open mind and where needed reconsider their positions as they move to the final approval in March.

The Principles I considered in preparing my comments included:

a) Council should avoid taking on services where there is pressure to “fill in” for programs that have been reduced or discontinued by other levels of government

b) Ensure Reserve Funds are kept at an adequate level and

c) Strategic use of reserve funds to phase in expenditure impacts over a four-year budget, if necessary, should be removed, at minimum, by the last year of the Multi- Year Budget period

### **Culture- London Public Library**

Congratulations to those Councillors that supported to continue the Wi-Fi lending program by the London Public Library. This is one service that truly promotes diversity and inclusion within the community.

Now it is up to Council to approve the base budget for the Library to ensure that the current level of core services are provided and the library will have the ability to meet growing demands in the future.

### **Economic Prosperity- Tourism London**

There is still some uncertainty regarding the London Tourism Budget and the use of the Municipal Accommodation tax. One spending consideration for the tax is to assure the success of Dundas Place. The investment return in the flex street and Dundas Place can only be achieved with high quality community events. This will bring people Downtown and support local businesses.

### **Environmental Services- Garbage, Recycling & Composting**

The support of a curbside Green Bin Program is welcomed. The need now is to include all Londoners (including apartment buildings) as an important next step.

### **Protective Services - By law Enforcement and Property Standards**

The concern of homelessness continues to be a public safety and security concern in the community

I know the challenge of housing those in highest need in our community is an issue that cannot be fully addressed in my time allotted this evening.

I would like to suggest a review of our bylaws related to home renovations. Could we through regulations increase accommodations for those with highest needs by offering financial incentives to home owners willing to renovate with a commitment to participate in the wrap around services that could result in their tenant's success as they address their addictions, mental health or poverty challenges.

In many sections of the budget we refer to "affordable housing". This is not the solution for those on fixed incomes, social programs or living in shelters or on the streets. We need "housing and accommodations according to one's ability to pay".

Investment in ability to pay housing and wrap around services for those in highest need are dollars saved in health care, emergency rooms waits and law enforcement expenses by not having police or paramedics be first responders to those in crisis.

### **Water and Wastewater & Treatment – Wastewater Treatment**

This appears to be one area of financial planning that depends on Federal/Provincial funding in order to assure future phases of several infrastructure are completed.

For example, flood planning has become a growing concern with the impact of changing climate. This comes at a time when the Provincial government decreased support to local Conservation Authorities.

This is where the City needs to provide some degree of push back to the Provincial Government on how municipalities should not be bailing out the Province in order for them to manage their budgets or gain perceived political support

### **Corporate, Operation and Council Service- Information Technology Services**

In the budget the operating expenditures each year hold until year 2023. In the final year there is an expected increase of one million dollars. I am not clear why this increase.

However, in the staffing allocation there is no change in the projections during 2020-23 budget. Yet it is suggested service demands could increase. The concern is are we asking staff in this department to take on more work with less support.

### **Transportation Services- Roadway Planning**

Prior to this budget many hours of dedicated time has been spent by Council, staff and the community to trying to address the challenges related to transportation.

I would like to congratulate the Mayor and Council on their recent support of moving London Transit to include electrical buses for the future. It is truly the right decision

I believe time will be the best judge of whether we got Rapid Transit right.

I am of a generation that recalls the debates about building a Ring Road which we declined. We are now paying the price of higher congestion on our roads. I hope we have not missed another opportunity by compromising on our recent decision regarding the previous Rapid Transit Plan. .

Council recently identified we are in a climate change crisis. We need real action related to climate change and financial policy.

We may be falling short given some of the spending in the budget related to roadways and transportation that will not support decreasing omission levels in the upcoming years.

We are fortunate to have the Thames Valley Parkway but much more needs to be done to build more protection for bicycle and walking routes in the City.

Council needs to call upon all Londoners and the business community to participate in finding solutions related to risks associated with climate change.

### **Winter Maintenance**

On behalf of our Seniors, those who may have physical challenges or that parent who needs to push the stroller to the bus in the winter, a review of our snow removal practices is needed.

In closing, I would like to thank Council for the time this evening. Please accept my comments as feedback. I do not represent a group or organization. I am a Londoner who takes great pride in my neighborhood and a City that has provided me many privileges. Those opportunities may not be available to everyone to enjoy. For them, we can and must do better.

Thank you.

Feb 11, 2020

Ed Holder, mayor  
City of London  
Ontario, Canada

Mr. Mayor and city councillors,

In April of 2019 the City of London declared a Climate Emergency. What an excellent first step! I also applaud you for moving forward with electric buses to reduce emissions which is why was looking forward to seeing what this city could do to transform itself into a green city. When I attended the case study presentations in January 2020, I was hoping to hear some innovative and forward-thinking case studies. I was looking forward to council implementing strategies that would prevent developers from building on farmland, wetlands and bogs. Why? Because these highly unsuitable sites have limited access to active travel networks like city buses, walking and cycling paths.

It feels like the developments are happening in a vacuum. It appears as if no one cares about how the people moving into these new neighbourhoods will come and go from them. I do not see the LTC as a partner in these developments because new routes come into existence long after the fact. This even though the economic case for investment in active modes of transportation is strong. According to recent European research, the ROI for active modes of transportation is 5\$ for every \$ spent! Along with this great return on investment not only do you get: a healthier population; stronger, safer local communities; better access to jobs and education; and lower levels of pollution; but you also get a city which needs to spend less on roads and road repairs.

I was discouraged that every single councillor voted in support of the roads capital growth budget to expand existing roads to the tune of \$200,000,000. And what will Londoners get for this money?? They will get wider and more dangerous roads, they will get more congestion from increased car travel, and they will get a poorly thought-out and implemented rapid transit project. Although some funding was attributed to the construction of cycling and walking routes, these are adjacent to new roads which enable city sprawling. This means our city's cycling network will not be able to grow rapidly enough to produce any measurable outcome.

What did we learn at the 2020-2023 budget discussions in January and February 2020? We learned that sadly the city only "declared" a Climate Emergency. We learned that the city is proposing to stay the course it has for years, with minor changes.

Since you declared the Climate Emergency, I take it that you must know that in order to reduce the CO2 emissions to meet the 2030 Paris Agreement targets, you have to ensure that 35% or more of the population use mass transit as their primary means of transportation, and another 35% or more use walking and cycling as their primary means of transportation. You also want to ensure single occupancy car trips decrease to less than 30%. Members of council, I do not see how the 2020-2023 budget can achieve the Paris Agreement goals.



My questions to you are as follows:

- Do you want a city with a healthier population?
- Do you want to see a city with stronger and safer communities?
- Do you want people to be able to use alternative means of transportation to get to work or school?
- Do you want to spend less on road repairs because roads are not deteriorating as quickly?
- Do you want to see a 500% rate of return on a city investment?

The fires in Australia should have helped you focus on the climate emergency. This Climate Crisis will only get worse if cities like ours refuse to do anything substantial about it. Globally, we may be just a drop in the bucket but every drop counts, and we need to make ours count. Let's make our city greener, let's make it healthier, and let's make it people friendly. Please do not plan for a "car friendly" city, instead plan for a people friendly city where cars are not required to get from point A to point B. Let us create a city where developers work with the city to ensure proper bus routes will be in place before the project is finished, let us ensure cycling and walking paths are created, let us ensure the people get more than one transportation choice. Let's not wait until **our** proverbial house is on fire before taking serious steps.

I am asking you to please reverse your vote on the roads capital growth budget, and invest more in mass transit, cycling and walking infrastructures in order to move more people in a way which will reduce our carbon emissions before it's too late for citizens of this city. Let us not be followers but leaders in making cities greener.

Charles Deschênes

London, Ontario N5Y 0A2



February 13, 2020

City of London  
300 Dufferin St.  
London, Ontario

To Mayor Ed Holder and City Council,

Subject: City of London Budget

Pillar Nonprofit Network is a network of 610 individuals, organizations and enterprises invested in community impact in London and the surrounding area.

Our work is driven by the belief that the three pillars – nonprofit, business and government – working together can create an engaged, inclusive and vibrant community. We believe in the collective power of networks; and our municipal government is a key partner within this network. Nonprofits and social enterprises are uniquely positioned to be invaluable partners for government in developing programs, services, policies and funding support that incorporate diverse perspectives and are responsive to community needs.

Many of you are connected to our sector through your own volunteer work – in service clubs, minor hockey and soccer programs, museums, community services and more – so you know how vital nonprofits are to our communities. It is essential for nonprofits and social enterprises to thrive; not only do they fulfill social needs, but as significant employers that contribute to job creation they are essential to our economy. Nonprofits alone employ nearly one million people in Ontario and contribute \$50 billion to the province's GDP, while advancing inclusive economic growth.

I am submitting this letter in follow up to my remarks at the public participation meeting in response to motions that were on the table during budget deliberations to reduce the Innovation & Capital Fund by 50% and to reduce Multi-Year Funding Allocations under the London Community Grants Program. (Pillar has received funding in the past, and is currently under consideration for multi-year funding.)

While we understand these motions failed at the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee, we want to take the opportunity to share our position should this discussion be revisited at future Committee or Council meetings and to highlight the importance of the nonprofit sector and its impact in our community.

So much work has been done over the years to shift to a multi-year funding model and a community grant process that is transparent. It has streamlined the decision-making process for the multiple requests that formerly came to City Council during municipal budget planning. Further, multi-year funding has led to more sustainable organizations, enabling them to better plan both strategically and



operationally. When the Community Review Panel supported \$9.2M in multi-year funding over the next four years and the applicants whose requests were being endorsed were notified, those organizations cautiously – and optimistically – drafted their budgets and planned their programming with those resources in mind. The security that multi-year funding provides goes beyond transactional service delivery; it supports transformational systems change. Reliable multi-year funding is critical to stable service delivery, to our sector and to our community.

The value of the close to \$2M in capital funding will surely exceed the City's initial investment, as it will be leveraged to secure additional funding from other levels of government. Take the example of the elevator recently installed at Innovation Works; we received \$100K from the Federal Government's Enabling Accessibility Fund, \$45K from the City of London, \$25K from a corporate donor, \$15K from an individual donor, \$10K from a foundation, and to complete the project we contributed \$95K from our own reserves. It took two years for us to acquire the funding to make this possible, and the City of London's contribution gave us the ability to secure other funders. And this funding fulfilled need; often capital funding is what's needed to grow programs or to provide safe and inclusive spaces.

Nonprofits and social enterprises are the foundation of our community and we are your partners; invest in us and you will be supporting an engaged, inclusive and vibrant community.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Spriet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Nicole Spriet, Board Chair

cc:

Cheryl Smith, Managing Director, Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services

Councillor Michael van Holst

Councillor Shawn Lewis

Councillor Mo Salih

Councillor Jesse Helmer

Councillor Maureen Cassidy

Councillor Phil Squire

Councillor Josh Morgan

Councillor Steve Lehman

Councillor Anna Hopkins

Councillor Paul Van Meerbergen

Councillor Stephen Turner

Councillor Elizabeth Pelosa

Councillor Arielle Kayabaga

Councillor Steven Hillier