



towards recovery
CLINICS

February 11, 2013

Chair and Members, City of London Planning & Environment Committee
City Hall
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON N6A 4L9

Attention: Heather Lysynski, Committee Secretary

**Re: Toward Recovery Clinics Inc.
527 Wellington Road, File OZ 8105**

Dear Chair and Members of the Planning and Environment Committee:

Towards Recovery Clinic (TRC) has been engaged with the City of London in discussions, research and community outreach for more than one year. We have identified London as being in need of the health care services we offer and our objective is to establish a clinic here. We assessed the limited number of potential sites available for the establishment of our clinic. Upon selecting a site which we believe meets the City's criteria, we have responded to concerns following both the public consultation session and issues related to Methadone Clinics and Methadone Pharmacies under the City's Official Plan. We have worked with our realtor to consider the handful of sites which are both appropriate and available. We believe that 527 Wellington Road meets our needs as well as the needs of the community. We also believe that it is appropriate to amend the Official Plan to permit the establishment of our Clinic at that location – due to its specific and considerable attributes.

We urge the Committee to review the correspondence from our realtor, Mr. Tim Schnurr, the Vice-President at CBRE Limited. You will see that CBRE assessed many of the sites which the municipality has identified as being appropriate for the establishment of healthcare services like ours. It has been frequently suggested by the municipality that there are over 800 sites which would meet the criteria for the delivery of addiction treatment services. In reality, there are nowhere near 800 sites. Most of the sites are occupied or in multi-use locations which would not be ideal for the type of healthcare service we deliver.

We have reviewed the staff report from the City of London's Planning Department recommending refusal of our application for the establishment of a Towards Recovery Clinic at 527 Wellington Road. We are extremely disappointed with the staff recommendation and do not believe that the rationale for the refusal can be properly justified.

Our Proposal

The clinic that we have proposed is a unique integrated and comprehensive model for the delivery of healthcare services and meets best practice standards, which will continue to evolve, in the methadone maintenance treatment practices task force report, including:

1. A healthcare model incorporating information and advice on all treatment options, medical care, counselling and support, case management, health promotion, disease prevention and education and supervised dispensing. We are building linkages to current providers of addiction services, including case assessment and counselling and primary care providers for education and follow up activities;
2. A clinic design incorporating the effective flow of clients that is respectful of the community, discourages loitering, provides interior space for clients to congregate and is tastefully designed for integration into the community;
3. The establishment of a community advisory/liason group to review community and neighbourhood needs and standards, patient and public behaviour and clinic operation; and,
4. Locating in a medical node along the longest stretch of health care services in the city for interdisciplinary care in the event of need.

Our Proposed Location

We believe the location meets the practical parameters of the City of London planning guidelines, supports excellence in patient care by clustering healthcare facilities in close proximity to one another and is a good community fit for the following reasons:

1. The facility is a standalone structure, highly visible, with good parking and easy access and egress;
2. The site meets the 300 metre pedestrian separation requirements and, using the 'as the crow flies' method, is further separated from neighbourhood schools by seven private properties and two municipal streets;
3. The location is directly linked to London's primary arterial road network for personal and public transit service; and,
4. The location is directly accessible to the City's primary healthcare facilities.

We truly appreciate the municipality's challenges in working with service providers in the substitute therapy program sector. Facilities like the one we have proposed are no less necessary than primary care institutions, x-ray imaging providers or laboratories. All of these services are part of the broader healthcare matrix and we urge the Committee to view our service in that context. We trust you will find this information helpful and hope you will agree with us that the site we have proposed is the best site available for the establishment of our clinic in the City of London.

You are welcome to contact us in the event you have any questions or comments.

Yours very truly,



Cam Crawford
Chief Executive Officer
Towards Recovery Clinics Inc.

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