

January 8, 2021

Community and Protective Services Committee Members
Via email: CPSC@london.ca

Dear Community and Protective Services Committee Members:

RE: Request for Delegation Status

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) is requesting delegation status at the Community and Protective Services Committee. Accountability has always been a top priority for YOU with our funding partners. The purpose of this request is to provide Council with a report regarding the funding awarded to YOU in 2017 and to answer any questions about London's Housing First Emergency Youth Shelter.

The bold step taken by the City of London in 2016 to release an RFP calling for proposals to create a youth shelter based on Housing First principles has led to fundamental change for our community's marginalized youth. The capital investment by Council and the community fundraising by YOU has created a game-changing model for youth shelter services.

Creating a Housing First shelter has not only created a safe roof for youth experiencing homelessness but has created a structured path to permanent housing. We look forward to reporting to Council how this model has resulted in many youth finding permanent housing.

We look forward to meeting with the CPSC to report on this project and answer any questions from Councilors.

Sincerely,



Terry Gillis,
President,
Board of Directors



Steve Cordes
CEO



Max Doucet
Youth Shelter Manager