

February 12, 2021

Arielle Kayabaga, Councillor, Ward 13
City of London
300 Dufferin Ave
London, ON N6B 1Z2

Dear Councillor Kayabaga:

On behalf of United Way Elgin Middlesex, I am pleased to offer support for your motion regarding enhancements to paid sick leave which you brought forward to the Corporate Services Committee on February 8, 2021. It is my understanding that this motion will be brought forward at the February 23, 2021 meeting of City Council.

Alongside other United Ways in Ontario and the members of the Ontario for All coalition, we support access to paid sick time for all workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. This call to action is also being championed by local social service agencies, public health experts, labour partners and workers' advocates in London and across Canada.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the urgent need for paid sick days for all workers who often have to choose between being unable to support their family and going to work with an illness, further spreading COVID-19. We believe workers should not have to risk their own financial security to follow public health advice. We call on the Ontario provincial government to provide up to 14 days of paid infectious disease emergency leave and up to seven days of paid personal emergency leave for illness, injury, bereavement, or family care, without the requirement of a doctor's note.

United Way Elgin Middlesex supports your motion urging action from the Government of Ontario and Government of Canada to enhance paid sick leave. This is as an urgent health policy initiative and critical health equity measure that will curb the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and financial security of workers, their families and their communities.

Thank you,



Kelly Ziegner, CFRE
President & Chief Executive Officer

cc: Ed Holder, Mayor, City of London
Cathy Saunders, City Clerk, City of London

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