



Ark Aid Street Mission Inc.  
696 Dundas St., London, Ontario, N6K 1J1  
[www.arkaidmission.com](http://www.arkaidmission.com)  
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RE: Post June 30 Strategy for High Acuity Homelessness

We are thrilled that our city administration and councillors as well as community partners are eager to see an extension of care, programming and services for those served by the WISH project. Supporting high acuity homelessness is difficult as the lives of those we are seeking to shelter are risky, challenged and complex. The two month extension has been welcomed by those who have required on-going services however we have not yet been successful in securing appropriately zoned, appropriately designed or appropriately welcoming lease opportunities to move the low barrier harm reduction services provided by the WISH to Be Home Project to by July 1.

To support stability, care and the strategies we have come to learn, work with our population we ask to remain on York St. until a permanent or similarly supportive location be established. We have community partners/ businesses and volunteers able to retrofit units for summer use. We have listened to the residents who have asked to stay at York St. as they have found community and home there. Alternative proposed options such as motel spaces have proven repeatedly to not be hospitable to our population and where the physical space and landlords require a barriered and often demeaning approach to the sheltering people. The high costs mean less funding for much needed staffing to provide supports so people not only are able to stay but move forward in their lives.

In order to support a thriving, hopeful and long-term stabilization to supports first housing approach we request the following:

- 1) All winter response trailers be sold/provided to Wish to be Home for community use providing all rights and responsibilities to improve, operate and utilize the assets that the federal dollars supplied to support homeless populations in an on-going manner.



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2) That Zoning permissions be extended on York St. and that the site be used as an emergency response until a long term location can be secured and zoned appropriately for use.

3) That the purchase of services be for the approach, and a minimum number of persons served but that provided community donations and adequate basic needs resources

Can add to numbers of those served to meet growing community needs.

4) That the city continue to engage and use every tool at their disposal to the establish deeply affordable, supports first housing and expedite processes related to zoning, waving development charges and even providing land assets for such a purpose as able, allowing the York St. site until adequate and sustainable options are available for those who require them.

We are committed to accompanying our friends and community members through the challenges they face in day to day living, recognizing that the instability they experience due to the uncertain opportunity to stay with the WISH to be Home project is anxiety provoking, and the closure of the same would be devastating. However, we cannot accept barriered and unsupportive constraints when alternatives are within the power of the city to provide. We look forward to working together to ensure that our innovative approach is continued, and pursued in order to create unprecedented positive outcomes for our beloved community.

Please help us help others, support a re-opening of business and community spaces and pursue a just recovery post Covid-19 shutdown through this project.

In Solidarity with those who are Deprived of Housing,



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Campbell', is positioned below the contact information.

Sarah Campbell

Executive Director, Ark Aid Mission

Project Lead- WISH to be HOME