



November 17, 2011

Municipal Council  
300 Dufferin Avenue  
P.O. Box 5035  
London, ON  
N6A 4L9

Municipal Council Members,

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 Councillor H.L. Usher made a presentation to Municipal Council regarding the incident at the JLC that targeted a racialized community member and the incident at Trail's End market that targeted a Trans-identified community member. In this presentation, Councillor Usher called for a response to these incidents on the part of the City and suggested that this response might be informed by the London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee and possibly the Anti-Hate & Anti-Bias Program at LUSO Community Services. This request was documented in a letter dated October 4, 2011 - received by LUSO Community Services on October 24, 2011.

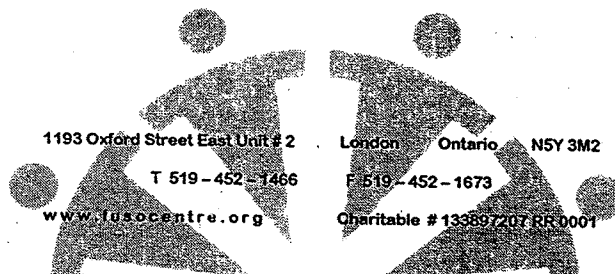
LUSO Community Services is committed to creating a community that is safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all of its members and visitors. We believe that hate, discrimination, and bias – whether expressed as racism or transphobia – should neither be accepted nor tolerated in our community.

From a human rights perspective, we all have the right to a life free from violence and hate; given this, it is important to take action to support our fellow citizens' human rights when they are in danger of being eroded through incidents such as those that were recently perpetrated at the JLC and at Trail's End Market. To this end, representatives from LUSO Community Services participated in media interviews and media panels following the incidents at the JLC and Trails' End Market. These features focused on issues of hate, bias, discrimination, and racism in the city of London with the goals of raising community awareness about these issues, discussing their consequences for individuals and communities, and sharing information about supports and services for those who have been impacted by hate. In response to the incident at the Trail's End Market - and as a member agency of the HBT Working Group (HBT= Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia) - LUSO Community Services supported the drafting of a letter that was sent to the proprietor of Trail's End Market that identified the HBT Working Group's concerns about the incident and outlined the group's requests for accountability and responsibility on the part of market management. Finally, as LUSO Community Services' Anti-Hate & Anti-Bias Program Coordinator serves as a resource member on the London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee, the agency remains available on an ongoing basis for consultation, information, and resources should similar incidents arise in the future.

Sincerely,

Elisabete Rodrigues  
Executive Director,  
LUSO Community Services

Meredith Fraser  
Anti-Hate & Anti-Bias Program Coordinator,  
LUSO Community Services



United Way  
of London & Middlesex  
A Community Partner