



February 16th, 2023

London City Hall
300 Dufferin Avenue
London ON N6B 1Z2

Attention: London City Council

RE: Health and Homelessness Summit, and the Whole of Community System Response

The London Homeless Coalition (LHC) exists to advise, shape, and coordinate community responses to homelessness in the London area. Our membership consists of representation from the housing sector, City of London staff, voices of lived expertise and engaged citizens. Part of our work is to advocate for change that will help to prevent and end homelessness in our community.

We have a long road ahead and it will take the dedication from all levels of government and across sectors, including health, mental health and addiction, justice, and community support to provide the response our community needs now, to be working together on an immediate, short term and long-term strategy. This is a time for us to come together, and we have done just that through the work completed at the Health and Homelessness Summit. This is the transformative and comprehensive systems change that we believe our community needs now to save lives.

Many of us have been on the frontlines of this from the beginning of many competing crises trying to do what we can to help from every single angle and exhausting all options, and the reality is the needs are greater than our most dedicated efforts. We need your support. In order to expand what is working and address gaps, we strongly urge you to act in favour of this work by supporting this community plan and supporting the allocation of London Community Recovery Network funding to initiate implementation.

The Housing Crisis is a systemic failure that requires systemic change; solutions require a locally driven, unified response that is in alignment with Provincial and Federal priorities. We must also acknowledge the need to not only consult but directly invest in Indigenous-led solutions as a key component of this strategy. We believe London can play a key role as a leader in the province in demonstrating that collaborative transformation is possible. We have a community that is ready to tackle this issue together, and the LHC is committed to doing what we can to support this collective effort.

We are grateful to the City of London for leading this work, and to all those who joined this dedicated action to ensure that these life-threatening issues and the community members most impacted by them remain our community's top priority.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Seeler".

Co- Chair of the LHC

Jaclyn Seeler