

February 16, 2023

Lynne Livingstone  
City Manager, City of London  
300 Dufferin Ave  
London, ON

Dear Lynne,

We write this letter in support of the work that the City of London has led regarding Health & Homelessness. Involving individuals and organizations from across the community, including many who historically have not been a part of the conversation, was unique and really underscores the commitment to do things differently. London can truly demonstrate how it is a leader in the province in reimagining how we work together.

As one of the largest housing first service providers working within the City of London Homelessness Prevention system, St. Leonard's is well aware of the crisis that we are facing: the marginalized members of our community are suffering and dying, the demand for affordable housing is out-pacing the supply, housing first programs are continually challenged with increasing complexity and acuity of persons served, and our healthcare and social service systems are becoming overwhelmed by the demands placed upon us.

Having been active participants and contributors to the Health & Homelessness Summits that the City has convened since November 2022, we are encouraged to see the whole of community response and the acceptance of housing as healthcare. We know that we will need to work differently together to provide hope, healthcare, and homes to all those in our community. We believe that housing is a fundamental human right.

We were pleased to be part of such an inclusive process, one that involved multiple sectors and that did so in such a comprehensive way. St. Leonard's will continue to share our experience and expertise in support of our shared purpose.

Sincerely,



Michael Oates  
Executive Director



Sarah Ashkanase  
Chair, Board of Directors