



YMCA of Southwestern Ontario

165 Elmwood Ave East
London, Ontario, N6C 0A8

February 17, 2023

London City Council
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON N6B 1Z2

Dear Councilors,

RE: Health & Homelessness Whole of Community System Response– Letter of Support

On behalf of YMCA of Southwestern Ontario, please accept this letter of support for the Health & Homelessness Whole of Community System Response.

YMCA of Southwestern Ontario's mission is to be dedicated to the enrichment of our communities through growth in spirit, mind, and body for people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities. With health and fitness branches, camps, child care centres, community programs, and newcomer services across the region, the Y is committed to the development of healthy communities.

The acuity of the challenges facing London with regards to homelessness, mental health, and addictions is greater than ever. It is with this in mind that YMCA of Southwestern Ontario quickly responded to the invitation to join nearly 70 local individuals and organizations from across the community – from community health and social services, institutional healthcare, education, emergency services, business and economic development, land and housing development, City of London staff, and staff from all levels of government. Together, we have been collaborating on a proposed solution that would provide a transformational response to support the most marginalized Londoners. This proposed solution is based on a common set of principles and foundations which were agreed upon by all participants.

Our Y remains committed to making our communities healthier and more connected. We strongly urge Council to support this community plan. The heart of the Y is building a healthy community where all are welcome. Our greatest successes in that regard have been made through collaborations with like-minded partners. We believe this can be one of those collaborations, and it has the potential to transform the lives of some of London's most marginalized citizens, and our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Lockie". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Andrew Lockie, CEO
YMCA of Southwestern Ontario