



## Changing Lives

By disrupting violence and abuse, we play a pivotal role in contributing to the safety of women, children, and men.

London-Middlesex | St. Thomas-Elgin | Chatham-Kent

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**Date:** February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**To:** City of London's City Clerk and City Council

**Re:** SPPC Meeting – Letter of Support for Health and Homelessness Summit

For over 25 years our agency has constantly seek to start and shape the conversation around gender-based violence, while delivering services needed to keep individuals and families safe. We currently provide domestic violence related programming to over 600 individuals a year in London, St. Thomas, and Chatham Ontario. Our goal is to disrupt intimate partner violence by engaging those who cause harm to create safer communities for all.

Our organization was pleased to be part of the Health and Homelessness Summit, which was a comprehensive, collaborative, and cross-sectoral process. 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 other levels of government – came together with a commitment to do things differently, together.

Our organization is committed to supporting the process in any way it can. We are hopeful and we know our community can and must do more. We hope to see this initiative help to achieve the City's strategic pillar of having a safe city for women and girls. This initiative is a great opportunity to include a shared language/approach and tools to identify and address risk around gender and intimate partner violence. We know homelessness is a major risk factor and therefore if reduced, can reduce harm and increase safety for all. Changing Ways is excited to be a partner in this journey.

Sincerely,

*Tim Smuck*

Tim Smuck, Executive Director