

APPENDIX I – SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE YOUTH SHELTER INTERAGENCY NETWORK¹

1. Equitable cost sharing; the Province of Ontario pay its full portion of cost-shared programs, recognizing that their failure to do so puts the entire system in jeopardy.
2. With the Province of Ontario paying its full obligation to the city, the current per diem rate funded through the City should be increased to \$65.00, effectively immediately.
3. The cessation of the current requirement of shelters to cash flow the City for shelter services. It is requested that a system of operating advances be instituted which will see a lump sum fiscal advance issues at the beginning of each year, which would then be balanced at the end of the year.
4. That the Province of Ontario recognize youth shelters for the important health and social services they provide, by directly funding those health-related programs and services that fall within the mandate of the Province of Ontario.
5. A network of preventative care should be constructed that provides for health and social services resources within shelters. To that end, the Province must provide adequate support and resources for the provision of mental health and addiction services currently delivered within the youth shelter system. Providing direct funding for these services offered within the existing youth shelter infrastructure is the most fiscally prudent and efficient option for the delivery of these critical services.
6. A per several recommendations in the City of Toronto’s 2006 “Street Needs” Assessment and in its “From Streets to Homes” Strategy, YSIN would like to continue working with the City of Toronto “to develop improved services and strategies to address the needs identified” by homeless youth coming to Toronto from all parts of Ontario.
7. The opportunity for YSIN shelters to work with the City and the Province of Ontario to develop a long-term strategy for the future of the Youth Shelter Sector.

¹ A System in Crisis: An Action Plan to Save Toronto’s Non-Profit Youth Shelters Report - February 2007