



Councillor Joe Mihevc
Toronto City Hall
St. Paul's West
Ward 21

MEMO

TO: Community Development and Recreation Committee

FROM: Councillor Joe Mihevc, Ward 21, St. Paul's West

RE: Homelessness and Cold Weather

DATE: January 13th, 2015

Recommendation:

Staff report directly to the next Council meeting on the adequacy of beds and drop-in services available to homeless persons during this winter season and strategies that can be implemented immediately to:

1. Reduce the occupancy levels of shelters to 90% in each sector (this may require the opening of a new facility ASAP);
2. Open two 24/7 drop-in locations for women on a temporary basis while the permanent drop-in locations are established and funded through the 2015 Budget process

Background:

The recent deaths of homeless persons have alerted Torontonians to the issue of the inadequacy of shelter and drop-in services for homeless and socially isolated persons. It is becoming clear that their needs are not being met especially during the winter season. The two key issues that require immediate attention are:

1. The lack of shelter beds in a number of categories;
2. The delay in the execution of the Council-approved directive to open two drop-in centres for women until the early Spring. Homeless women need an immediate temporary solution for this winter.

The motions clearly need financial resources. The CFO will need to report to Council on how to fund it for early 2015.

Sincerely,

Councillor Joe Mihevc
Ward 21, St. Paul's West