



# EX4.16.1

To: exc@toronto.ca

Subject: My comments for 2015.EX4.16 on March 25, 2015 Executive Committee

Please add my comments to the agenda for the March 25, 2015 Executive Committee meeting on item 2015.EX4.16, Request for Report on Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack

Youth Without Shelter is a 50-bed shelter for homeless and at risk youth located in North Etobicoke. We are funded in part by the City of Toronto. Woodbine Entertainment Group has been a corporate partner of the organization since the year 2000. Their donations over that period total \$18,000. This support has impacted the lives of over 14,000 youth who have sought refuge at Youth Without Shelter during that period.

Additionally, each December, employees from Woodbine, many senior managers, volunteer to provide and serve a festive holiday dinner for our youth. They spend time chatting with the youth and during what is an emotionally critical time for them, demonstrate that the community does indeed care.

Woodbine has also provided employment opportunities for our youth. During times of record youth unemployment, it is significant that a local employer is willing to give homeless youth an opportunity.

While this has been our experience with Woodbine, it is not at all unique. Their support of the community and the non-profit sector in particular, has been significant.

Youth Without Shelter supports Woodbine Entertainment Group's request to attain a resolution to expand their gaming operations and to move the process forward to community consultations and City staff review.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wendy Horton".

Wendy Horton, CAE  
Executive director