

From: [Danielson, Roxanne](#)
To: [Mayor Tory](#)
Cc: [Clerk](#)
Subject: CD24.7 2018 Shelter Infrastructure Plan and Progress Report.
Date: Monday, December 4, 2017 10:24:16 AM
Attachments: [Msg to Mayor Dec 5th Meeting.docx](#)

Please find the attached letter on behalf of the Street Nurses Network.

Kindly,
-Roxie Danielson
(on behalf of the Street Nurses Network)

Dear Mayor John Tory,

As the Street Nurses Network, we are writing to you today to urge you to declare an emergency in the shelter system to help prevent further homeless deaths.

Shelters are full. On a regular basis we are unable to locate beds for those in need. Since November 15th, as many as 416 people a night could not access a shelter bed and instead slept on a mat, in a chair or on the floor of overcrowded Out of the Colds and city funded drop-in facilities. People in these facilities sleep inches apart and often do not have access to showers or a sufficient number of bathrooms. People go months without privacy or adequate rest and arguments occur over a limited supply of mats and blankets. These conditions are also conducive to the spread of disease and the deterioration of health must be immediately addressed. Adding an additional 400 shelter spaces to these existing facilities will simply come with more consequences.

On November 20th, the Community Development and Recreation Committee (CDRC) voted 4 to 1 on a motion urging you to act. We are asking that you request the federal government to allow the city to open Moss Park Armoury and Fort York Armoury to provide shelter space to the homeless, as was done four times previously. This would provide immediate respite to those in drop-in centres and on the street.

Finally, we ask that you vote in favor of the motion unanimously supported by the CDRC to address the shelter capacity crisis by opening an additional 1,000 shelter beds within Toronto. This will help bring shelter occupancy rates below 90%, reducing the overcrowding in existing shelters and providing a bed for everyone in need.

Since the beginning of this year, 83 homeless people have died in Toronto and we cannot afford to lose another life. Please do the right thing and take action to save the lives of people who are homeless.

We look forward to seeing your leadership on this decision at the December 5th council meeting.

Sincerely,

-The Street Nurses Network