



April 12, 2018

Dear Community Development and Recreation Committee Chair and Members,

RE: Resources to support the clients at West Neighbourhood House Meeting Place

West Neighbourhood House has been serving the Queen West community for decades.

The Meeting Place, located at Queen and Bathurst (588 Queen St. West), aims to empower its members by lowering social isolation and staff work to increase access to social networks and income opportunities through advocacy, public education, and skills development for their members. Everyone works together to create a community space that offers safety, security, and access to people's basic needs.

Using a community development approach, the Meeting Place staff and their members work together to try and remove the barriers that keep people from accessing housing, income and healthcare support. In addition, Meeting Place case management supports and facilitates access to primary and mental healthcare, addiction supports and assistance with legal issues.

As time has passed, the needs of the surrounding neighbourhood and the Meeting Place members have changed and new challenges have uncovered the need for new resourcing/funding levels in order to ensure West Neighbourhood House is effectively meeting their mandates as described above.

Recommendation:

1. Community Development and Recreation Committee request that the General Manager of Shelters, Support and Housing Administration, in consultation with Chief Medical Officer of Health, the General Manager of Employment & Social Services, and West Neighbourhood House identify what resources are needed and the funding options available to better meet the needs of the service users at The Meeting Place and report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee before July 2018.

Thank you,

Councillor Mike Layton
Ward 19, Trinity-Spadina