

**From:** [Stuart Ducoffe \(Woolvan\)](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Permanent Housing Decision- November 9/21 - Novotel / the Esplanade  
**Date:** Monday, November 8, 2021 4:18:07 PM

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To City Council:

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> As I have just become aware of City Council meeting to discuss the ECDC October 21/21 Report and was just provided with the below, I am confirming our law firm's fervent support of this position. Our law firm, Woolgar VanWiechen Cosgriffe Ducoffe LLP, is located at 70 The Esplanade. While our firm has been sympathetic to the role of the Novotel hotel during the pandemic, it has resulted in our female staff fearing attendance at our premises. Indeed it has not been uncommon for a male employee to accompany female employees to and from the parking lot on the south side of the street. It regrettably has become commonplace to be required to step over needles and liquor bottles littering the sidewalk in front of 70 The Esplanade and nearby. Employees and particularly female employees should not be compelled going forward to accept this significant compromise in their safety to permit the extension of what was represented as a limited mandate.

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> Stuart Ducoffe  
> Woolgar VanWiechen Cosgriffe Ducoffe LLP

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> WRITTEN DEPUTATION of \_\_\_\_\_

> TO: TORONTO CITY COUNCIL for No 9-10/21, dated No 5/21.

> City Council will be presented with the ECDC's Oct. 21 Report next week. The Report purports, in part, to 'provide... an overview of the Covid-19 Transition and Relocation Plan (to decommission hotel homeless shelters, including the Strathcona, Vitoria, Bond and Novotel Hotels, and transition out their residents)'. The Covid-19 Transition and Relocation Plan the ECDC proposes will 'include a relocation plan for shelter residents and the restoration and decommissioning of Covid-19 response sites used for physical distancing. Timelines to decommission any of the Covid-19 response programs (including hotel shelters) will depend on the availability of new, affordable, supportive (and permanent) housing development'.

> WE ask Council to reject any ECDC Transition and Relocation Plan that makes the timelines for decommissioning of hotel shelters depend on the 'availability of new, affordable, supportive (and permanent) housing development'. The use of downtown hotels as shelters was promised to be only a temporary measure to allow for physical distancing due to COVID. Once physical distancing requirements were lifted, the Hotels were to be decommissioned as shelters and the residents returned to the permanent shelter system. The terms under which the ECDC now proposes to decommission hotel shelters is directly at odds with what was promised. The proposal, if allowed to be implemented on its terms, will serve to continue to operate the hotel shelters long after the physical distancing requirements are lifted, and in effect, indefinitely.

> The ECDC, and those Councillors on its panel who endorse this Plan, ought not to be allowed to go back on the City's word, given through its elected representatives, to decommission solely on the lifting of the physical distancing requirements. The City should keep its promises. Not keeping this promise is a deplorable breach of trust, one that will further erode the City's integrity and credibility. And the trust we repose in it.

> The neighbourhood's safety and wellbeing has been compromised for the better part of two years as these shelters have not just been used for people who needed a home where they could maintain physical distance. They have been used to house those with severe mental health problems and drug addictions that deserve better attention and care in the proper facilities. The homeless themselves are not happy with this situation that has worsened their mental health and resulted in numerous loss of life due to overdoses because of the isolation and lack of support available at these facilities. The result of this temporary arrangement has been ongoing criminal activity at the expense of all business owners, workers and residents in the area. Businesses are struggling to find staff willing to work in the area because of safety issues.

> The homeless and those with addiction and mental health needs deserve better. All the residents of downtown Toronto deserve better. Please do not let the constituents of the financial, entertainment and tourist districts down. This decision is of vital importance as it will determine whether Toronto ends up like San Francisco, Seattle and LA where the core of the cities have been overtaken by crime and lawlessness at the expense of businesses and other

resident who are eventually driven away to other locations. DO NOT LET US DOWN.

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> Please excuse brevity and / or typos - Sent from my iPhone