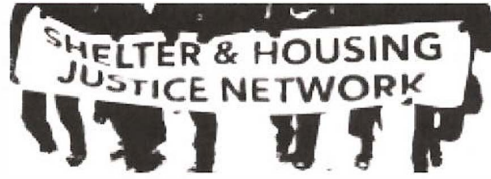


November 8th 2022
Received: 10:57am
Board of Health



From: Lorraine Lam

Stop The Cuts - Open Shelter Now
Public Delegation to the Mayor's Office to Prevent Winter Deaths
Tuesday November 8, 10AM

To Members of the Board of Health,

Dropping temperatures, rising COVID cases and an extreme shortage of shelter beds are creating a dangerous situation for people who are homeless. The shelter crisis has reached dire proportions and will grow even worse as the City unleashes major cuts to shelters and other critical services. According to city data, 221 people experiencing homelessness died in 2021 at a median age of 45. Unless immediate action is taken, homeless deaths will continue to rise this winter.

Accessing emergency shelter is now nearly impossible. Every day an average of 170 people are turned away due to bed shortages and are forced to sleep outside in the rain and cold. Countless others have lost hope and no longer try to access a bed. Recent funding cuts and shelter hotel closures will put more pressure on a system already overloaded.

Despite an extreme shortage of shelter and continued COVID outbreaks the City plans to close the Novotel and cram an additional 500 sleep spaces into existing congregate shelters. The 251 beds at the Novotel are set to close at the end of this year right in the dead of winter. Non-congregate hotel beds have provided safer shelter for many people. Closing non-congregate facilities and reducing social distancing measures in congregate settings will worsen shelter conditions and contribute to infectious disease outbreaks and poor health outcomes.

The City has recently slashed funding to many crucial programs including housing support workers, eviction support programs, employment services and drop-in programmes. These service cuts will reduce access to food, safe spaces to be indoors and support to exit homelessness. The City released a winter plan this week that was incredibly inadequate. The City recognizes that the shelter system is at capacity, and yet the measures taken will still leave many people with no safe indoor options.

The City has failed to address the shelter shortage and is now cutting essential services yet they continue to violently evict homeless encampments. People have nowhere to go. Encampment evictions only lead to destroyed survival equipment, isolation and harm. Rather than criminalizing homelessness the City must prioritize creating safe shelter for everyone.

On November 8th, 2022 we will be bringing a public delegation to your office. We would like to meet to discuss immediate actions that could save lives this winter.

We demand the City of Toronto:

1. End the planned closure of shelter hotels. Existing hotel programs must remain open

Japanese Canadians for Social Justice

Individuals

1. Emily Albert (Toronto, ON)
2. Catherine Brasch (Toronto, ON)
3. Joshua Best (Toronto, ON)
4. Sean Wieder (Toronto, ON)
5. Lorraine Lam (Toronto, ON)
6. Elaine Laengert (Toronto, ON)
7. Tim Laengert (Toronto, ON)
8. Danielle Koyama (Toronto, ON)
9. M.A. (Markham, ON)
10. Stephan Goslinski (Toronto, ON)
11. Tabitha Mui (Mississauga, ON)
12. Rev. Angie Hocking (Toronto, ON)
13. Tiffany Wu (Toronto, ON)
14. Marietta Wong (Markham, ON)
15. Jessica Griffiths (Toronto, ON)
16. Cathy Crowe (Toronto, ON)
17. Ryan McMenemy (Mississauga, ON)
18. Jessica Demeria (Toronto, ON)
19. Chelsea Pineiro (Toronto, ON)
20. Fatima Niane (Toronto, ON)
21. Bernadette Lettner (Toronto, ON)
22. Wesley Sohn (Mississauga, ON)
23. Bess Jarvis (Toronto, ON)
24. Colleen So (Mississauga, ON)
25. Valérie Michaud (Toronto, ON)
26. Yusuke Tanaka (Toronto, ON)
27. Catherine Jo Ishino (Toronto, ON)
28. Kim Koyama (Toronto, ON)
29. Linda Ruth Ciglen (Toronto, ON)
30. Stefanie Di Domenico (Ottawa, ON)
31. Brittany Collinge (Stouffville, ON)
32. Saige McMahon (Toronto, ON)
33. Jessica Arteaga (Toronto, ON)
34. Sylvia Grady (Toronto, ON)
35. Megan Carver (Toronto, ON)
36. Atia Haq (Toronto, ON)
37. Marianna Reis (Toronto, ON)
38. Connor Stevens (Toronto, ON)
39. Caitlin Carlisle (Toronto, ON)
40. William Chaupiz (Toronto, ON)
41. Kevin Aichele (Toronto, ON)

86. Julie Malian (Toronto)
87. Alyssa Scott (Toronto)
88. Faisal Islam (Toronto)
89. Mara Schneiderman (Toronto, ON)
90. John Bonnar (Toronto)
91. Mia Yaguchi-Chow (Toronto)
92. Rubita Hollett (Newmarket, ON)
93. Robin Kiatipis (Toronto, ON)
94. Laura Rubino (Toronto, ON)
95. Nathan Maure (Toronto, ON)
96. Sara Ghandeharian (Toronto, ON)
97. Stephanie Niesner (Toronto, ON)
98. Hannah Leigh-Bell (Toronto, ON)
99. Serena Leo (Toronto, ON)
100. Alex Walker (Toronto, ON)
101. Avi Lipsyc (Toronto)
102. Leigh Kern (Toronto, ON)
103. Zachary Grant (Toronto, ON)
104. Claire Purdy (Toronto)
105. Sarah MacKell (Toronto)
106. Charlotte Kidd (Toronto)
107. Tekalah Grant (Toronto, ON)
108. Bernice Couto (Toronto, ON)
109. Sheila Colla (Toronto, ON)
110. Rafi Aaron (Toronto, ON)
111. Nate Ives (Toronto, ON)
112. Mackenzie Kundakcioglu (Toronto)
113. Rachel Clemente (Toronto, ON)
114. Jamille Lopes (Toronto)
115. Kaila Hunte (Toronto, ON)
116. Sameera Karim (Mississauga, ON)
117. Tempie Coelho-Freeman (Toronto, ON)
118. Christine Bélanger (Toronto, ON)
119. Colleen Clarke (Stouffville, ON)
120. Erin Mccutcheon (Toronto, ON)
121. Taryn McGown (Halifax, Nova Scotia)
122. Daniel Platts (Toronto, ON)
123. Angel Tawadrous (Toronto, ON)
124. Sydney Madia (Toronto, ON)
125. Michelle Murphy (Toronto, ON)
126. Josephine Fletcher (Toronto, ON)
127. Tina Zafreen Alam (Toronto, ON)
128. Jesse Han (Toronto, ON)
129. Karen Bowman (Toronto, ON)

174. Charlene Norton (Toronto, ON)
175. Anita Ragunathan (Mississauga, ON)
176. Chemi Lhamo (Toronto, ON)
177. Jennifer Howarth (Toronto, ON)
178. Kasia Gwynne-Timothy (Kingston, ON)
179. Swelen Andari (Toronto)
180. Tamara Daniel (Toronto)
181. Rosemary Meier (Toronto)
182. Danica Post (Kitchener)
183. Lakisha Hoover (Kitchener)
184. Jeremiah Soedirgo (Toronto)
185. Carmen Yang (Scarborough, ON)
186. Brittany O'Halloran (Kitchener, ON)
187. Kieran O'Halloran (Mississauga, ON)
188. Dea Rylott (Hamilton, ON)
189. Bethany Tillo (Newmarket, ON)
190. Caitie Rosen (Toronto, ON)
191. Ann Dean (Toronto, ON)
192. Karly Gaffney (Toronto, ON)
193. Johanna Lewis (Toronto, ON)
194. Avi Spector (Toronto, ON)
195. Ellie Ruggles (Toronto, ON)
196. Olivia Blahuta (Toronto, ON)
197. Jeff Bierk (Toronto, ON)
198. Sydney Farranto (Toronto, ON)
199. Sydney Gemmell (Toronto, ON)
200. Raphael Chipman (Halifax, NS)
201. Thomas Schwill (Toronto, ON)
202. Maggie Keats (Toronto, ON)
203. Shae Yorg (Peterborough, ON)
204. Craig Renaud (Toronto, ON)
205. Keight Maclean (Toronto, ON)
206. Michelle Dyck (Toronto, ON)
207. Hannia Cheng (Toronto, ON)
208. Sandra Dosen (Toronto, ON)
209. Bryn L (Toronto, ON)
210. Carly Morin (Toronto, ON)
211. Freddy Lam (Toronto, ON)
212. Jessica S (Toronto, ON)
213. Dana Patterson (Toronto, ON)
214. Naomi McCarroll-Butler (Toronto, ON)
215. Emma Segal-Grossman (Toronto, ON)
216. Stephanie Arlt (Toronto, ON)
217. Susanna Arlt (Toronto, ON)

262. Melanie Panitch (Toronto, ON)
263. Jessica Machado (Toronto, ON)
264. Jac White (Toronto, ON)
265. Jared Mortley (Ward 4 Toronto, ON)
266. Maegan Broadhurst (Toronto, ON)
267. Ling Tin (Toronto, ON)
268. Rina Fraticelli
269. Kendra Ainsworth (Toronto, ON)
270. Catherine J. Grilo (Ontario)
271. Sadiyah Jamal (Toronto, ON)
272. Erika Chan (Toronto, ON)
273. Sydney DeGuzman (Cambridge, ON)
274. Amie Tsang (Toronto, On)
275. Kim Jackson (Toronto, ON)
276. Josiah Bilagot (Toronto, ON)
277. Sally Suen (Toronto, ON)
278. Michelle Laplante (Toronto, ON)
279. Mingjia Chen (Toronto, ON)
280. Anson Cai (Toronto, ON)
281. Justin Han (Toronto, ON)
282. Ambrose Wilson-Moola (Toronto, ON)
283. Amanda Leo (Toronto, ON)
284. Justine Basi (Mississauga, ON)
285. Santiago Moran (Mississauga, ON)
286. Sarah Rehou (Toronto, ON)
287. Noam Lapid (Toronto, ON)
288. Jessica doupe (Barrie, on)
289. Esther Lexchin (Toronto, ON)
290. Kyle Bergstresser (Toronto, ON)
291. Jessica Mason (Toronto, ON)
292. Maya A. (Toronto, ON)
293. Teresa Leung (Toronto, ON)
294. Carly Laderoute (Toronto, ON)
295. Harris Rollit (Toronto, ON)
296. Al Donato (Toronto, ON)
297. Shannon Lam (Toronto, ON)
298. Beatrice Wayne (Toronto, ON)
299. Mona Dai (Toronto, ON)
300. Spencer Dietrich (New Zealand)
301. Esther Lo (Richmond Hill, ON)
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