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Submission to the Economic and Community Development Committee
Re: Expanding Emergency Shelter Infrastructure in Toronto EC22.3

8 July 2025

Dear Chair Councilor Bravo and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong support of the Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS) and the urgent development of new, purpose-built shelter spaces across Toronto.

Many of the community members I meet in Davenport are part of the hidden homeless, where they couch surf, rent precarious spaces, or find a field to pitch a tent.

Please move forward swiftly with the implementation of new shelter sites and long-term housing solutions. Let this be the moment we choose care over complacency—and possibility over postponement.

I also want to point out that in the 2024 Street Needs Assessment (SNA) as of October 23, 2024, 15,418 people were experiencing homelessness in Toronto and the leading cause of homelessness is insufficient income (81% said rent-gear-to-income housing would help them exit homelessness).

We hope that the ECDC would also look into supporting a Guaranteed Livable Income in the City of Toronto, just as many other municipalities have done so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Ma. Christina Conlon'.

Rev. Ma. Christina Conlon
Community Minister