



**MORE NEIGHBOURS
TORONTO**

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

RE: EC22.3 - Highlights of the 2024 Street Needs Assessment and advancing the City's Shelter Infrastructure

About More Neighbours Toronto

[More Neighbours Toronto](#) is a volunteer-only organization of housing advocates that believe in building more multi-family homes of all kinds for those who dream of building their lives in Toronto. We advocate for reforms to increase our city's ability to build more homes in every neighbourhood. We are a big-tent organization with members across the political spectrum who are committed to counterbalancing the anti-housing agenda that has dominated Toronto's politics, created an affordability crisis, and cost burdened a new generation of aspiring residents. We are firmly committed to the principle that housing is a human right and believe Toronto should be inclusive and welcoming to all.

Position

More Neighbours Toronto thanks City Staff for their work in putting together the 2024 Streets Needs Assessment and supports the continued work under the Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS).

The City of Toronto desperately needs more shelter spaces with requisite supports. While shelters are a stop-gap measure, in the absence of sufficient and stable Rent-Geared-to-Income or supportive housing facilities they provide unhoused Toronto residents with necessary and life-saving support.

In particular, More Neighbours supports the continued delegation of authority to staff for shelter site selection. The politicization of the shelter implementation process causes unnecessary delays, additional costs, and loss of health and life. The city allocates precious capital budget for shelter service improvement each year but is unable to spend that allocation – in large part due to difficulty getting approved sites. Everyone recognizes the need for more shelters at the city level, and yet the claim is that each neighbourhood or ward is somehow uniquely unsuited to host those of their neighbours in greatest need.

The number of people without shelter and homes in Toronto is an emergency and we need to treat it like one.

Regards,
Brian Cheung
More Neighbours Toronto