

Tuesday, July 8th, 2025

**RE: Expanding Emergency Shelter Infrastructure in Toronto EC22.3**

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

**TEA strongly supports the Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS) and the urgent development of new, purpose-built shelter spaces across Toronto.**

The 2024 Street Needs Assessment (SNA) revealed startling insights about the need for shelter in our city. Over 15,000 people were experiencing homelessness in our city at that time, with over 1600 of them outdoors.

Nearly 300 people are turned away from shelters each night. On nights when temperatures are either dangerously hot or dangerously cold, this lack of shelter can be even more life-threatening.

Current weather data tells us that in the coming decades, our changing climate will bring temperatures at extreme heat levels for over 60 days each summer, while extreme rainfall and intense storms will increase in frequency and intensity.

This brings a greater responsibility to provide safe shelter for those 300 people who are turned away each night. Unsheltered residents are already at the greatest risk of exposure, dehydration, frostbite, or death. Failing to meet these basic shelter needs will become more dangerous every year and exacerbate these risks.

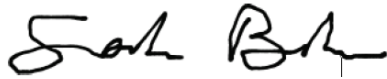
This is just one of the many reasons that the proposed 1600 new shelter spaces are essential. As outlined by previous submissions from community agencies, we ask you to support:

- Purpose-built, smaller shelters that are community-integrated and dignity-focused
- An equitable distribution of shelter services across all wards
- A long-term view that links emergency response with the broader HousingTO Action Plan
- Sector-wide funding parity and multi-year operational stability

- Designing shelters in collaboration with people with lived & living experience of homelessness
- Operating shelters with integrated supports

Please move forward swiftly with the implementation of new shelter sites and long-term housing solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Buchanan'.

Sarah Buchanan  
Campaigns Director  
Toronto Environmental Alliance