



**CANADIAN UNION OF
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

34 St. Patrick Street
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1V1
Tel: (416) 977-1629
Fax: (416) 977-9546
www.cupelocal79.org

Executive Committee:

President:

Nas Yadollahi

First Vice-President:

Keith Fiering

**Vice-President Executive
Steward:**

Aimee Carnell

Vice-President Equity:

Brigett Coleman

Recording Secretary:

Coline Babin

Membership Secretary:

Fred Shilson

Treasurer:

Shannon Berseth

**Assigned CUPE
Representatives:**

Gerry Lavallee
Cesar Serrano Valdivia
Yasmeen Mirza
Marie Lorenzo
Kylie Sier

Bargaining Units:

Bridgepoint Hospital
– Nurses & Paramedical
Units
– Service Units

City of Toronto
– Full-Time
– Long-Term Care
Homes & Services
Part-Time
– Recreation Workers
Part-Time
– Unit B Part-Time

*Toronto Community
Housing Corporation*

*Toronto Seniors Housing
Corporation*

July 9, 2025

Economic and Community Development Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Bravo and members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

CUPE Local 79 represents most of the front-line staff in City-operated shelters. Our workers take phone calls in Central Intake, work as caseworkers in our shelters and visit our street-involved neighbours through Streets to Homes.

The state of homelessness in our city is in dire straits. As front-line workers we navigate this reality daily.

I am writing to communicate the Local's support for the Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy. Large hotels are not only inadequate for clients, but they also present difficult and often dangerous health and safety working conditions for workers.

Purpose-built and City-run sites, operated by front-line Local 79 members, are the foundation of our shelter system. The Local supports a gradual movement towards the closing of hotels paired with consultation with front-line staff and with clients — and with no job losses.

The majority of Local 79 workers in the TSSS Division are racialized, predominantly Black women. Our members have first-hand experience with the influx of refugees into our shelter system and the significant challenges these refugees face. We echo the City's request to call on the Canadian government for additional funding to ensure our shelter system can be expanded.

Residents rely on the City of Toronto to provide this necessary service and to expand it gradually, as we know demand is growing.

Our shelter system should not be used as a political ploy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Yadollahi", written in a cursive style.

Nas Yadollahi
President, CUPE Local 79

NY NT cope343/rc