

Re: 2025.MM30.6 – Concerning Public Consultations for Communities Impacted by New Shelter Locations

Dear City Council,

We at the Etobicoke-Lakeshore Shelter Support Coalition have been active in advocating for the proposed senior's shelter at 66 Third St over the last several months. We would like to echo More Neighbours Toronto's call to withdraw the current motion and come back with a consultation framework that includes housing advocacy, housing justice and shelter advocacy groups in any site-specific consultations. As many of us know, the prevailing community consultation model favors people in socially dominant groups who have the time and resources to show up and do not do enough to accommodate low-income and racialized Torontonians and Indigenous people.

As well, single time-slot consultation makes it difficult for night-shift workers and caregivers to show up and may interfere with critical programs that key stakeholders run, such as Hand in Hand's Monday night dinner program for unhoused folks in New Toronto. We have an urgent and demonstrable need for shelters in South Etobicoke and elsewhere in the City and it is important that community members who support local shelters be fairly represented.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus W. Sherlock

Etobicoke-Lakeshore Shelter Support Coalition