

From: [Kate Barton](#)
To: [Planning and Housing](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Comment submission Item - 2025.PH23.3
Date: July 14, 2025 2:19:19 PM

Dear committee,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the zoning changes to build more shelters in Toronto.

In Toronto in May 2025, only 12 out of 614 calls to Central Intake resulted a shelter bed. This means that if someone tried to access a shelter bed, they had a 1.9% chance of succeeding. This is shameful. Our city officials need to do better.

As you know, the need for food banks is beyond a crisis level. City data shows that shelters are full and hundreds of people are turned away every night and forced to sleep outside, where they are dying. Outdated Public Health data shows that an average of 300 babies are born into homelessness every year in this city. The City must commit to ending poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness—now, not later.

In the meantime, we continue to experience brutal heat waves in this city that will only increase as the climate crisis worsens. In a city of 15,000 unhoused people (source: 2024 Street Needs Assessment), there is only ONE 24/7 cooling space in our city, located downtown. And yet, with no shelters available, and with no overnight cool spaces available, the City recently made the heartless decision to evict several tents and residents. Where do you expect these fellow human beings to go?

As a Toronto resident who is grateful to have a home where I can easily access shelter, safety, comfort, dignity, and relief from unpleasant and dangerous weather conditions, it's abundantly clear to me that everyone deserves the same.

Members of Toronto's Planning and Housing Committee: In your discussion of zoning laws for shelters, you have an opportunity to act with moral clarity and compassion, to approve the building of more shelters in our city. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Kate Barton
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