

PH23.3 - Advancing Six Sites for the Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS) - City-Initiated Official Plan Amendment and Six Zoning By-law Amendments - Decision Report - Approval

From: Chiara Padovani, North York Harvest Food Bank

Date: July 8, 2025

Dear Chair Councillor Perks and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of North York Harvest Food Bank, I am writing in strong support of the proposed zoning amendments for Advancing Six Sites for the Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS).

As the primary food bank serving northern Toronto, we see first hand the tragic impacts of the housing affordability crisis. Nearly three quarters (73%) of the people accessing food banks in Toronto are living in deep core housing need, putting them at high risk of eviction and homelessness. Worse still, 20% are spending 100% of their income or more on rent—leaving no money for food, clothing, transit, or other necessities.

The proposed 1,600 new shelter spaces are not just timely, they are essential. Please move forward swiftly with the implementation of new shelter sites, including the necessary zoning by-law amendments.

Let this be the moment we choose care over complacency—and possibility over postponement.

Sincerely,

Chiara Padovani
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