

The Issue

Why This Matters

Since 1890, generations of families have called this quiet, culturally diverse and working-class borough of Etobicoke home. The recently proposed construction of an 80-person emergency shelter on a small residential street at 66 Third Street is a project that raises significant concerns—concerns that have not been adequately addressed by The City.

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Key Concerns:

Inadequate Infrastructure:

The small 9,246 sq. ft. lot is adjacent to:

Woods Manor Supportive Housing for Seniors.

Two elementary schools within 350 meters

Limited emergency services and site access; the nearest police station (22 Division) is 12 minutes away at Bloor and Islington, posing safety challenges for both the community and shelter residents.

Community Overload:

New Toronto has 3 times more supportive housing per capita than the Toronto average.

The area provides more social housing support than Parkdale and Jane & Finch combined.

64% of South Etobicoke's supportive housing is located in New Toronto - the highest of all Etobicoke-Lakeshore's neighbourhoods

New Toronto has a supportive housing density of 15.4% per capita—three times higher than Mimico, eight times that of Long Branch, and fifteen times that of Alderwood, making it the most concentrated area for social housing in Ward 3.

HARM REDUCTION SERVICES ON SITE:

We have all heard of Safe Injection Sites, but It is important to understand what this New Term of HARM REDUCTION MEANS, so let us explain.

With a Safe Injection Site -assorted drug paraphernalia such as Needles and Crack Pipes are distributed Free of Charge by the City of Toronto, Residents would be permitted to use drugs inside but under the supervision of trained medical professionals.

With a HARM REDUCTION SITE (which this shelter will include) Residents are provided with the the same list of drug paraphernalia (list below) but they are NOT permitted to use inside the shelter, nor will use be medically supervised. So, if they have the tools, but cannot use inside, where will they use their drugs? Most likely the residential street that the shelter is on, the many nooks and alleys, Prince of Wales Park and other local parks. HARM REDUCTION IS A RE-BRAND, but it is essentially an UNSAFE INJECTION SITE.

Lack of Transparency:

- No clear information on who the shelter will serve or how support services will be provided.

- Residents and businesses have been excluded from crucial discussions.

Lack of Constituent Consultation:

City Councillor Amber Morley has not properly engaged directly with residents. Our Requests for an in person town hall has been met with a virtual webinar format where all residents will not get their voices heard.

A PR firm, Public Progress, (hired at the cost of \$200,000 in taxpayer money) has been conducting closed-door meetings with select groups (Woods Manor Senior Housing and the local BIA), excluding concerned community members.

What We Are Asking For:

We are calling on the City of Toronto, Councillor Amber Morley, and City policymakers to:

Pause the project until meaningful consultations with local residents take place.

Address critical concerns, including safety, infrastructure, and the equitable distribution of social services across the city.

Ensure transparency by sharing detailed plans and community impact assessments.

Contact your elected representatives (councillors, school trustees, provincial and federal officials) and urge them to prioritize community consultation

Spread the word to our neighbours and friends, schools and places of worship to ensure our collective voice is heard.

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