

July 21, 2026

Mr. John Elvidge, City Clerk
City Clerk's Office
100 Queen St. W.
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Administrative Inquiry, 68 Sheppard Ave. W.

Dear Mr. Elvidge:

The following information is provided in response to the Administrative Inquiry submitted by Councillor Lily Cheng regarding the proposed Indigenous Women and Children's Shelter at 68 Sheppard Avenue West.

This response has been prepared by Toronto Shelter and Support Services in consultation with Corporate Real Estate Management, the Toronto Parking Authority and CreateTO. The information provided has been reviewed and endorsed by the respective divisions and agencies responsible for the subject matter addressed in this response.

Response

1. How was 68 Sheppard Avenue West chosen as a site for a shelter?

- Following TPA's determination that the property was surplus to parking needs, CreateTO evaluated the site alongside other potential municipal uses and identified it as suitable for future shelter infrastructure.
- The site was assessed against Homelessness Services Capital Infrastructure Strategy (HSCIS) program criteria, including site size, planning considerations, access to transit and community amenities, readiness for implementation, and its contribution to a more balanced distribution of permanent shelter infrastructure across Toronto.

- Once identified as suitable for permanent shelter infrastructure, the site was advanced to support an Indigenous-led shelter for Indigenous women and women with children experiencing homelessness through the City's Indigenous Expression of Interest process, consistent with Council-approved HSCIS priorities.

2. What kind of parking data was used to warrant the surplusing of that lot?

- In 2023, The Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) determined that the property was surplus to operational needs following a review of parking utilization, operating costs, revenues, inventory, and long-term parking demand in the surrounding area.
- While Car Park 418 was in active use, TPA determined that nearby parking facilities had sufficient capacity to accommodate demand. The review also found that operating costs exceeded revenues at the site, with no realistic path to long-term financial viability.

3. Will the Indigenous Women and Children's Shelter include a supervised consumption site or operate a public distribution program for drug paraphernalia?

- No. The shelter will not include a supervised consumption site and will not operate a public distribution program for drug paraphernalia. Individuals seeking services who are not a resident of the shelter would be directed to the appropriate community-based resources.
- The program will be operated by the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto. Anticipated supports include housing-focused services, cultural programming, access to Elders, healing supports, wellness services, and connections to physical and mental health resources. The shelter will operate in accordance with applicable City standards and contractual requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Tanner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gordon Tanner

General Manager
Toronto Shelter & Support Services
City of Toronto