



Fast Facts about the temporary 24-hour Respite Site at 545 Lakeshore Boulevard West and 701 Fleet Street (The Gore)

The City of Toronto has introduced a temporary 24-hour Respite Site at 545 Lakeshore Boulevard West until the completion of the temporary Sprung structure at The Gore – 701 Fleet Street. After construction is complete for the structure at The Gore, respite services will be transferred from 545 Lakeshore Boulevard West to the new location. 545 Lakeshore Boulevard West will then be converted to a temporary shelter for women and couples.

Who will stay in the new 24-hour Respite Site?

Open to individuals of any gender aged 16 and older including pets.

What services will the 24-hour Respite Site provide?

They provide essential supports (including meals, service referrals and places to rest) in an environment that prioritizes ease of admission to safe facilities.

When will the 24-hour Respite Site open?

Temporary 24-hour respite services are being offered currently at 545 Lakeshore Boulevard West. The temporary structure space at The Gore is scheduled to be opened by January 2019 and will remain in-place until permanent shelters are introduced at other locations.

How many people can stay at the 24-hour Respite Site?

The temporary structure at The Gore will have space for up to 70. The 24-hour Respite Site at 545 Lakeshore Boulevard will have up to 100 spaces.

What will these temporary Sprung structures look like?

Temporary structures from Sprung are modular and can be constructed to satisfy City performance requirements and mandated timelines. The structure will be an insulated, all-weather building constructed with a high-performance tensioned fabric and fibreglass on an aluminum frame. The building system has plumbing and is designed to be comfortable in both winter and summer.

Who will be operating the 24-hour Respite Site?

Fred Victor, an experienced non-profit shelter provider, will be managing daily operations.

How will the community be involved?

Community members can directly volunteer through Fred Victor. Donations for winter and pet clothing are also accepted. Please contact Katy Scherer at kscherer@fredvictor.org for more information. Questions and concerns about facility operations can be directed to Sylvia Braithwaite at sbraithwaite@fredvictor.org.

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What is the difference between “respite” and “shelter”?

24-Hour Respite Sites

Mandate is to provide a safe place for rest, food, and support.

Typically open November–April, but Council has extended the service to relieve current occupancy pressures.

24/7 access with limited restrictions on when people may come in or leave.

Staff offer referrals to community-based services. Support workers (e.g. case managers, housing workers, health workers, etc.) may visit the site to meet with clients.

Most 24-hour Respite Sites provide cots, but some clients prefer mats or chairs.

All are pet friendly.

Permanent Shelters

Mandate is to welcome people experiencing homelessness, assist them to access housing, and connect them with the supports to maintain housing stability.

Open year-round.

More structured program model with curfews and regular bed checks.

In addition to offering referrals, permanent shelters also offer on-site case management, housing, and health services.

Clients sleep in beds. They also have lockers to store their belongings.

Although all new shelters will be pet-friendly, only a few are at this time.