

Community Bulletin #4

The Roehampton Residence – School Safety Plan Edition
September 11, 2020

This is the fourth Community Bulletin for the temporary shelter activated to support physical distancing in response to COVID-19 – the Roehampton Residence at 808 Mount Pleasant Avenue. This is a special issue focused on the release of the School Safety Plan.

This Bulletin was developed by City staff and Swerhun Inc, a third-party community facilitator retained by the Shelter, Support, and Housing Administration (SSHA) Division at the City of Toronto as part of the community engagement process for the Roehampton Residence at 808 Mount Pleasant Avenue.

This Bulletin contains two sections:

1. How a Midtown Safety School Plan was Prepared
2. Safety School Plan Overview

Please refer to [Community Bulletin #1](#), [Community Bulletin #2](#) and [Community Bulletin #3](#) for more information on the following topics:

TOPIC	BULLETIN & PAGE
Community safety	Bulletin 1, Page 3 Bulletin 2, Page 9
Urgent need for temporary housing programs, lack of community engagement and notice prior to opening the sites, City's legal authority	Bulletin 1, Page 6 Bulletin 2, Page 3
Information about the people who access our programs	Bulletin 1, Page 8
Shelter resident rights, responsibilities, and enforcement, including COVID-19 and public health recommendations	Bulletin 2, Page 5
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Midtown School Safety Plan is available on the project website at: [Toronto.ca/PhysicalDistancingShelters](https://toronto.ca/PhysicalDistancingShelters)

If you'd like to sign up to receive the Bulletins and/or share your questions, comments, and/or feedback with us:

- Send us an email to: clc.roehampton.residence@gmail.com
- Leave us a voicemail at: 416-479-0243
- Other project updates, as well as a feedback form can be found at: [Toronto.ca/PhysicalDistancingShelters](https://toronto.ca/PhysicalDistancingShelters)

All feedback shared via the project email, voicemail and online feedback form continues to be tracked and shared with City staff for consideration. The regular Bulletin format with key information and updates based on community feedback will continue in the next issue.

1. How a Midtown School Safety Plan was Prepared

The Midtown School Safety Plan was prepared by the Shelter, Support & Housing Administration Division at the City of Toronto with input from the Toronto Police Service Division 53, TDSB trustees, TDSB administration, principals and vice-principals of local schools, as well as representatives of local parent councils.

The plan was developed over four meetings held in the last month with the objective of developing and implementing the plan prior to the start of the school. Based on the stakeholders' input, SSHA worked closely with the local school principals and the broader group to:

- Complete safety walkabouts at and around school properties to ensure the Safety Plan covers key areas of concern;
- Gather data on peak times and student walking routes to inform the School Safety Plan; and
- Refine the proposed approach and school-specific implementation plans.

This group of stakeholders will continue meeting on a regular basis to review the School Safety Plan and refine it, as necessary.

List of Invited Organizations and Participants

The following organizations were invited to participate in the stakeholder meetings and school safety walks to inform the School Safety Plan. Those who were able to attend and participate are bolded below.

Trustees:

Ward 8 TDSB School Trustee
Ward 11 TDSB School Trustee
Ward 11 TCDSB School Trustee

School Boards:

TCDSB Superintendent of Education
TDSB Superintendents of Education
TDSB Acting Associate Director Business Operations and Service Excellence
TDSB Executive Officer Facility Services
TDSB Media Relations and Issues Manager
TDSB Business Services

Schools:

Central Eglinton Children's Centre Director
Eglinton Junior Public School Principal
Eglinton Junior Public School Vice Principal
Hodgeson Middle School Principal
John Fisher Junior Public School Principal
John Fisher Junior Public School Council Chair
Maurice Cody Junior Public Principal
Maurice Cody Junior Public Vice Principal
Maurice Cody Junior Public Family and Schools Association Co-Chairs
Northern Secondary School Principal
Northern Secondary School Council Co-Chair
Northern Secondary School Council Co-Chair
North Toronto Collegiate Institute Principal
St. Monica Catholic School Principal

Toronto Police Service 53

Division:
Unit Commander, Superintendent
Detective Sergeant
Community Response Unit Manager, Staff Sergeant

City of Toronto, Shelter, Support & Housing Administration:
Director of Homeless Initiatives and Prevention Services
Manager of the Roehampton Residence
Manager of the Roehampton Residence, Policy Development Officer
Supervisor of Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Facilitation Team:

Swerhun Inc.

2. Midtown School Safety Plan Overview

With the school year beginning next week, the Plan outlines roles and responsibilities for issues identified over the past several months and provides a framework for continuous engagement with all stakeholders. The overall goal of the School Safety Plan is to reduce the likelihood of any hazards or threats from happening and to minimize any impact on the safety of community members should they occur.

In addition to the safety and security measures already in place in the areas around the shelter including laneways, streets and roads in the neighbourhood, additional measures being implemented as part of the School Safety Plan include:

- Enhanced community safety and mobile patrols to have a visible presence during school hours as well as during off-hours;
- Proactive safe removal and disposal of garbage and hazardous materials found in public spaces or on school property; and
- Rapid response to shelter-related issues that are reported from our school partners

The School Safety Plan approach is based on the following principles:

- The safety of children in schools is of utmost priority to the City and every effort should be made to prevent situations that can potentially put children in a harm's way;
- Maintaining safety is a collective responsibility and that no individual or organization can guarantee anyone's safety;
- Hazards at schools can be found on school property from members of the community whether a shelter exists or not;
- Residents of Roehampton Residence are equal citizens of the City and have the same rights, freedoms and responsibilities as other residents of the city;
- Communication regarding hazards and safety concerns must be clear, transparent, upfront and timely; and
- Safety measures outlined in the School Safety Plan will be regularly reviewed for effectiveness and updated to reflect changing conditions, lessons learned and best practices.

The plan identifies four key actions to promoting school safety, addressing a range of concerns and issues identified by the stakeholders. These four actions include:

1. **Monitoring and patrolling key areas during certain times of the day and night.** Patrols are provided by Community Safety Teams, private Mobile Security Patrols, and Toronto Police Service Division 53 patrol units.
2. **Minimizing threats from trespassing on the schools' properties.** The plan outlines roles, responsibilities and guidelines to addressing such incidents.

3. **Cleaning hazards by the City of Toronto's Facilities Management.** Sweeps of school properties, including picking up needles, will occur every morning seven days a week before any school programming begins.
4. **Providing on-site health and well-being support services for shelter residents.** In addition to primary care, mental health and addictions counselling, there will be informational posters on COVID-19 and conduct in the neighbourhood, and the regular resident meetings with a focus on the Good Neighbours Policy and shelter residents' responsibilities will continue.

Other important information included in the School Safety Plan:

- Continuous stakeholder engagement to review and refine the plan as necessary
- Alignment and coordination with the broader community engagement process through the Community Liaison Committee and Community Bulletins;
- Development of education materials for students;
- Incident reporting and tracking protocols; and
- Communications channels, protocols and key contacts.

It is important to note that the Midtown School Safety Plan is meant to be a living document and be flexible to feedback from the community and responsive to any safety issues that may arise. The City is committed to continue meeting with school representatives as the plan is implemented.

For a detailed read of the **School Safety Plan** and School-specific Implementation Plans, please visit the project website at: www.toronto.ca/physicaldistancingshelters (and click on the Roehampton Residence page) or click [here](#).