

45 The Esplanade - Community Bulletin #1

February 24, 2021

As part of the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for physical distancing in the shelter system, 45 The Esplanade has been leased by the City of Toronto to act as an emergency temporary shelter hotel.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to receive these Bulletins. This is the first Community Bulletin on developments at the new shelter at 45 The Esplanade and includes information on:

- Opening of the Shelter
- Community Information Meeting
- Community Liaison Committee
- Homes First Introductions and Updates

Opening of the Shelter

As of the time of writing this Community Bulletin, Homes First and City staff are busy putting the finishing touches on the plan to welcome shelter residents, including creating a security contact list to address possible safety concerns, and hiring intensive case management staff. Residents will be moving in on a continual and managed basis as the systems are put in place, starting this week.

Community Information Meeting

A Community Information meeting was held online on February 18, 2021 and was attended by more than 400 people. It included presentations from the City of Toronto and Homes First to share information about new shelters and homelessness services in Toronto, and on the program and operations at 45 The Esplanade, followed by opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. If you missed the meeting, the presentation is available on the City [website](#). The report on the meeting, including summary of all questions and answers, and a recording of the meeting (including closed captions) will be provided in the next Community Bulletin. Feel free to share the link; we want the best and most accurate information available to the community.

Many questions and concerns have also been received via email, and responses will be included in the next the next bulletin. We have not lost your question!

In the meantime, you may wish to review the FAQ that has already been developed on the shelter [website](#).

Community Liaison Committee

We are looking for people interested to act as representatives on the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) for 45 The Esplanade. You can review the Terms of Reference on the City [website](#), and learn more about participation requirements. You will note that we are seeking a broad representative group of residents, businesses and organizations to help support the success of the shelter in the community.

Given the number of residential buildings in the area, we will be seeking one person to represent each building. Your condo/coop/housing/tenant board or committee is requested to select their representative. If you live in one of the buildings listed in the Terms of Reference, we request that you send an email to clc.45theesplanade@gmail.com letting us know who your representative will be.

You will also notice in the Terms of Reference that three spots on the CLC have been reserved for "members at large." These spots are for members who are not represented in the residential buildings listed in the Terms of Reference, but who live in the community and want to support

this the work. Please send a short statement and resume describing your interest to participate to clc.45thesplanade@gmail.com to be considered as a member at large.

We hope to begin CLC meetings as quickly as possible in mid-March, once residents and organizations have chosen their representatives. The meetings will take place virtually every two weeks to start and then once a month on Monday evenings from 6 to 8pm. Each representative should be prepared to receive input from and to report back to your networks.

Introduction of the homes First Leadership Team at 45 The Esplanade



Everyone needs a home

Homes First is proud to share the leadership team that will manage the shelter. Here is who they are and a bit of their background:



Christopher has been working in the shelter system with Homes First Society since July 2018. He recently accepted the role of Site Manager at 45 The Esplanade. His prior work involved managing an Intensive Case Management team that connected hundreds of clients with comprehensive supports, and successfully housed countless clients from all walks of life. In his post-secondary ventures, Christopher obtained a Bachelor's of Social Work Degree, Social Service Work Diploma, and Life Skills Certificate. He is excited to support the clients and communities in and around The Esplanade.

Ryan has been involved in the non-profit sector from a young age. He is a graduate of the Children's Media Program at Centennial College specializing in community & youth engagement. Ryan has worked for Homes First for over 3 years. He started at Homes First as the Volunteer Coordinator and has since been the Relief Supervisor, Community Engagement Supervisor and is currently in his role as the Manager of Community Engagement & Clients Programming.



Alexandra Perry has been in her role as Manager of Hotels at Homes First Society since April 2020. She has worked in leadership roles within the health and addiction field for over 8 years and recently completed her Masters in Adult Education/ Governance and Policy. Previously she worked as the Clinical Director at a private treatment centre for addiction and mental health and aims to combine her experiences to create sustainably public management.

From Homes First to The Esplanade Community:

On behalf of Homes First and the staff working at 45 The Esplanade, we would like to send a "Hello" as well as a huge "THANK YOU" for the generous support and inquires we have received over the last week. We are very excited to become a part of The Esplanade Community and contribute to The Esplanade's vibrant and captivating legacy. We love hearing from the community and look forward to connecting and developing new volunteer and partnership opportunities.

Our first step is obtaining donations of warm clothing and winter wear (thermal underwear, boots, gloves, winter jackets, etc.) for our new residents upon arrival.

If you are interested in donating, supporting in other ways, or have any questions or concerns, please contact **ryan.evershed@homesfirst.on.ca** & **alexandra.perry@homesfirst.on.ca**.

Thank you all so much for your time and efforts.

Keeping in Touch

Feel free to forward this Community Bulletin to anyone that you think would benefit from information about this new shelter site, including condo board/members, local businesses, resident associations or other groups you may be a part of. Ensuring the community has access to the facts about the site, and details for how to get more information and updates will support the success of this service in the community.

If you want to receive this Community Bulletin, and have not already done so, please sign up by sending an email to clc.45theesplanade@gmail.com.

More information: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/community-partners/emergency-shelter-operators/about-torontos-shelter-system/new-shelter-locations/physical-distancing-shelter-sites/45-the-esplanade/>