

# COMMUNITY BULLETIN #1

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FACILITATION TEAM

We are Maria Crawford and Violetta Ilkiw from Barnes Management Group, and we are pleased to introduce ourselves to you as the Community Engagement Facilitation Team for the 76 Church Street shelter site. We come with backgrounds in community engagement, process facilitation, and experience with shelters and City systems.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ROLES

The City typically engages the community in advance of opening a new shelter to provide information about the program and support its success of the service into the community. This has not been possible for the program at 76 Church St due to the speed at which the City had to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City worked quickly to save lives, protect the more vulnerable, and minimize the spread of COVID-19 in the shelters and community. Our role in the engagement process is to gather feedback on key issues, to ensure stakeholders are informed of the plans for the site, and to foster a good relationship between the shelter and its neighbours, in order to ensure the success of the future shelter service.

**We will issue regular community updates and post them to the project website.**

**Send us an email to receive regular updates for the 76 Church Street shelter site and provide us with comments, feedback, or questions.**

**Ask to be added to the mailing list:**

[clc.76church@gmail.com](mailto:clc.76church@gmail.com)

**Call to leave a voicemail:**

**(416) 800-2914 ext. 202**

**A website has been set up for community engagement related to**

[76 Church Street](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

**A Community Information Session** will be held Monday May 3 from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

Check the website [76 Church Street](#) for information on how to join the virtual event.

You do not need to pre-register.

## 76 CHURCH STREET OVERVIEW

### **1. What is happening at 76 Church Street?**

The City of Toronto is operating a 55-bed, 24-hour emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness. This site was opened in April 2020 as part of the City's response to COVID-19 and has been operating since May 2020. The beds on-site represent moved capacity from Seaton House to meet Toronto Public Health physical distancing guidelines. At full capacity, the site has the ability to provide 67 beds for residents.

### **2. Who is going to operate the shelter?**

The shelter is operated by the City of Toronto. City staff have many years of experience operating shelters for people experiencing homelessness and receive ongoing training to provide the support that residents need to make a successful transition to independence.

### **3. How long will the shelter operate at 76 Church Street?**

This site was selected in April 2020 as part of the City's response to COVID-19 and has been operating since May 2020 as a 55-bed, 24-hour shelter serving male residents. The beds at this site represent beds that had to be moved from Seaton House to meet Toronto Public Health physical distancing guidelines.

In February 2021, the lease at 76 Church Street was extended for five years so that the site can remain open and continue to provide shelter service for residents of Seaton House during COVID-19. The site will then remain in service until the George Street Revitalization project is complete, which is planned for 2026.

### **4. Who will live at 76 Church Street? Can people experiencing homelessness from around the 76 Church Street area stay there?**

76 Church Street is an emergency men's shelter, which means any person who identifies as male and who is experiencing homelessness can access this shelter. The people currently living at the shelter are clients from Seaton House who were moved to meet Toronto Public Health physical distancing guidelines. When residents leave the shelter and beds become available, the site will act as a resource for males experiencing homelessness. All referrals to the shelter will come from [Central Intake](#).

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT KEY ACTIVITIES

Here is how we plan to engage with the community, and ways for you to stay informed:

**Virtual meetings:** We are reaching out to community members, businesses and business associations (BIAs), local resident associations, condo boards, and other community services and agencies over the next few weeks for small group or one-to-one meetings. At these sessions, we will provide information about the 76 Church Street site and hear your concerns, ideas, and the ways you would like to stay informed. If you would like us to meet with your group, please contact us at: [clc.76church@gmail.com](mailto:clc.76church@gmail.com). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, meetings at this time will be held virtually.

**Community Information Session:** On May 3, 2021, a Community Information Session will be held virtually, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. This session will give community members a chance to hear directly from City staff, the shelter operator, and the Councillor's office about the site.

**Email Bulletins:** We will also send out regular updates, at least monthly, or more frequently, as needed. Please feel free to forward this Community Bulletin to other community members who may wish to be added to the mailing list for the 76 Church Street shelter site. Community members who would like to be added to the mailing list can email us at: [clc.76church@gmail.com](mailto:clc.76church@gmail.com) and ask to receive future updates on the site.

**Community Safety Walk:** Pending COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions, a community safety walk will be organized around the area surrounding the shelter, when permitted.