

UPDATE ON THE SHELTER AT 66 THIRD STREET

May 7, 2025

On April 15, 2025, the City of Toronto held a virtual town hall to discuss the upcoming shelter at 66 Third Street, which was attended by more than 250 residents. At this meeting, the City announced that it is moving forward with a 50-bed shelter designed to accommodate the needs of unhoused seniors aged 55+. The City also announced that the [Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre](#) would operate the facility.

The decision to accommodate seniors at this location is primarily data-driven, based on the need for more shelter spaces for seniors – seniors make up approximately 15% of clients in Toronto's shelter system, with only two shelters currently dedicated to seniors. This decision was also influenced by community feedback and the proximity of Woods Manor to the site.

The shelter will be operated by the Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre (CONC), selected following a competitive [Expression of Interest](#) process. Founded in 1993, CONC provides essential services for vulnerable community members. By working in collaboration with residents, community institutions, agencies, local businesses and stakeholders, they are committed to supporting a safe and healthy community.

Shelter Operations

66 Third St. will have trained staff on-site 24/7, with shelter programming tailored to the needs of seniors. Residents will not be required to leave the program during the day and will have access to programming to support their journey into permanent housing. Programming may include referrals for income assistance as required, such as Old Age Security and Canadian Pension Plan applications, case management through a housing-first lens, and access to primary and mental health care, including Personal Support Workers and referrals to Long-Term Care. All meals and snacks will be provided daily and clients are not required to leave each morning.

Site Selection Process

As part of the overall shelter siting process, the City reviewed over 100 sites across Toronto in 2024, including 15 in Etobicoke-Lakeshore, for appropriateness as a municipal shelter. Toronto Parking Authority deemed 66 Third St. a surplus lot, making it immediately available for City-building projects. In addition, the existing zoning for the site permits a municipal shelter, and early due diligence confirmed that the site could comfortably fit a shelter conforming to [Shelter Design and Technical Guidelines](#). Finally, 66 Third St. is immediately adjacent to Lake Shore Boulevard West, a major arterial with public transit, and enjoys access to several amenities.

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May 6, 2025

Community Dialogue So Far

The City of Toronto, Public Progress, and Councillor Amber Morley have been working to collect feedback on the shelter at 66 Third St. This has included door to door canvassing of over 1,500 residences in the immediate residential area and local businesses, two coffee and conversation events at Woods Manor, three parent focused groups, a parent info night, and two faith leader focus groups. Meetings have also been held with the New Toronto Lakeshore Village Residents Association and the Lakeshore Village BIA, and responses have been gathered to over 350 emails and calls. Additionally, an in-person drop-in session attended by over 300 residents and a virtual town hall joined by more than 250 attendees were held.

Key themes that have been heard throughout this process have related to concerns for the community of New Toronto, a need for transparent updates and opportunities for input, concerns about increased risks, clarity on size, outdoor space, and crime prevention. Responses also included a need for shelters in the community and clarity on shelter operations. Any feedback incorporated into the development of this shelter will align with the needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Next Steps

A summary of the virtual town hall held on April 15, 2025, alongside responses to questions posed at the town hall, will be posted on the City of Toronto's website at www.toronto.ca/66Third. The City of Toronto looks forward to additional opportunities to hear from the community, including opportunities for input on design and programming in the coming months and an opportunity for a community walk in late 2025.