

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## New Family Shelter at 108 Harrison St.

The City of Toronto has secured 108 Harrison St. for use as a family shelter that will provide critical supports for families experiencing homelessness. The program will be operated by Red Door Family Shelter and will provide a welcoming place for families to stay as they transition to permanent housing. The shelter is expected to serve **up to 32 families** and is currently anticipated to open in **2028**.

You are receiving this bulletin because you previously indicated an interest in receiving project updates. If you have any questions about the shelter or no longer wish to receive these updates, please email [108Harrison@toronto.ca](mailto:108Harrison@toronto.ca).

To learn more about the project and the City's plans to develop new shelter sites, visit [toronto.ca/108Harrison](https://toronto.ca/108Harrison) and [toronto.ca/NewShelters](https://toronto.ca/NewShelters).

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### Shelter Operator



The shelter at 108 Harrison St. will be operated by **Red Door Family Shelter**, a trusted community organization that has supported women, children and families experiencing homelessness for more than 40 years.

Red Door Family Shelter provides essential supports that help families find lasting stability.

Their services include:

- Case management and housing support
- Access to health and community services
- Food and laundry facilities
- Enrichment activities for families
- Programs for children and youth

The shelter will be staffed **24 hours a day, seven days a week**, and designed to support families as they transition into permanent housing.

The shelter operator was selected through a comprehensive [Expression of Interest](#) (EOI) process that was evaluated by a committee made up of City staff who are subject matter experts in different aspects of shelter operations, service delivery, financing and budgeting.

Red Door Family Shelter will be required to follow [Toronto Shelter Standards](#) that clearly outline expectations for shelter operations, safety and accountability.

### Community Drop-In Session

The City of Toronto hosted a Community Drop-in Information Session on Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 6 - 8 p.m. at 1196 College St. The meeting was postponed from its original January date due to inclement weather conditions. The session was held at this location due to limited availability of suitable venues closer to the project site at the required time. The City will continue to seek opportunities to host future community meetings closer to the site whenever possible.

City staff from Toronto Shelter and Support Services (TSSS) and other divisions were present to provide information about City services. Representatives from Red Door Family Shelter and local community organizations and agencies also hosted tables to provide information about programs and supports available to families in the neighbourhood. The local Councillor for Ward 9 - Davenport, Councillor Alejandra Bravo, attended the event as well.

Through these information tables, residents were able to learn more about shelter operations, family supports, community safety measures, neighbourhood services, and the planning and design process for the site.

The West End YMCA, which hosted a table at the event, donated a one-year family membership to a family connected to the school where the meeting was held, providing access to YMCA programs and services.



## What We Heard from the Community

Below are the most frequently asked questions we have received to date and at the drop-in event.

### What supports will be available for families staying at the shelter?

The shelter will be staffed 24 hours a day and provide critical shelter and wrap-around supports, including case managers who will work closely with families to better understand their needs, develop personalized housing plans, and connect them to

social programs, primary care, mental health and harm-reduction services, and employment and income supports, as outlined in the [Toronto Shelter Standards](#). The shelter program will also provide meals, laundry facilities, recreational and afterschool programming, and will feature a family resource centre/playroom.

Additional resources may be added once the site opens to address the needs of families onsite.

### How can community members support the shelter and get involved?

As the shelter moves closer to opening, information will be shared with the community about volunteer opportunities, donation needs, and other ways to support Red Door and the shelter's residents. Community members can also share their ideas and experience on how to support the families at the shelter.

### Why is the City building a shelter when people are in need of permanent housing?

Shelters are an essential part of the housing continuum. They provide immediate, short-term support for people experiencing a housing crisis as they work toward permanent housing options, including supportive housing.

For families, the need is especially urgent. When parents and children lose their housing, they need a safe, stable place to stay right away. Without family shelters, families may have no choice but to stay in motels, overcrowd with relatives, or rely on emergency services - situations that can compromise children's safety and well-being.

Family shelters offer a more stable, cost effective and supportive environment during a difficult transition. It gives families space to stabilize, access services and work with housing staff while waiting for longer-term housing solutions in the community.



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## Upcoming Community Engagements

Successful shelters are supported by strong relationships with the surrounding community. The City of Toronto is committed to ongoing engagement with residents, businesses and local organizations as planning for the shelter at 108 Harrison St. moves forward.

To support this work the City has retained **Optimus SBR**, a third-party consultancy, to support community engagement for 108 Harrison St. The lead Community Engagement Facilitator, **Shohreh Soltaninia**, has more than 10 years of experience leading public-sector engagement focused on housing, social services and organizational transformation. Shohreh will work with City staff, Red Door Family Shelter, the local Councillor's office and community stakeholders to facilitate dialogue, share project updates and ensure community feedback is heard throughout the planning process.

Shohreh Soltaninia can be reached at [108Harrison@toronto.ca](mailto:108Harrison@toronto.ca). Please visit [toronto.ca/108Harrison](https://toronto.ca/108Harrison) for upcoming events and important updates on this project.

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## Shelter Location and Services

### Need for Family Services

Family homelessness is rising, with 10% of people experiencing homelessness in 2024 reported to have children and/or other dependents. Despite this growing demand, there are no dedicated family shelters in the Davenport neighbourhood.

The new shelter at 108 Harrison St. will mark a crucial step toward meeting the needs of families in the community, providing them a safe place to stay and access to essential services and supports.

### Shelter Search in Davenport

Homelessness is experienced in communities across Toronto, and shelters are needed across the city to support people facing immediate housing crises. To identify suitable locations for new shelters, City staff conducted a comprehensive review of more than 200 properties, including several sites within the Davenport area, to ensure they met zoning, size and operational requirements.

The shelter at **108 Harrison St.** was selected through this process as an appropriate location to help expand the City's shelter system and respond to growing demand for family shelter spaces. The City acquired the property in 2025 after it was listed for sale, following the closure of Carmelite Day Nursery in 2024.