

December 9, 2022

To Guelph City Council Members,

I am submitting this letter to provide support for Item 4.2- *County of Wellington Request – Drop-In Hours in Downtown Guelph 2022-375* to be discussed at the December 13, 2022 City Council meeting.

People who face challenges such as mental health, addiction, poverty and food insecurity have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Our community is not immune. In Guelph-Wellington, as across the rest of the province, many people are struggling with housing precarity, homelessness, mental health and addictions complexity. As a result, there is increasing demand for life-saving and life-stabilizing services that are co-located downtown.

Royal City Mission provides a warm, safe space with opportunity for connection, meals and reprieve from the outdoors, for people who may have nowhere else to go. This essential service is even more important as the weather becomes colder.

As we work collectively toward long-term, sustainable solutions to address the basic needs of and to provide supports and service for people who are struggling, we also need responses that support people in need today and in the coming months.

This letter indicates our support for the following **Recommendation**:

That the City of Guelph will provide a one-time operating contribution of \$250,850 to facilitate the 2023 extension of drop-in service hours at Royal City Mission beginning January 1, 2023.

This infusion of funding will allow Royal city to extend their hours of operation and provide a much-needed service in the Downtown Guelph.

Sincerely,

Sarah Haanstra

Director of Integrated Programs

Guelph Community Health Centre