



THE BUSBY
CENTRE

Everybody is Somebody

Mayor Jeff Lehman and members of Barrie City Council

June 27, 2022

Dear Mayor Lehman:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Busby Centre. We are very appreciative of the long-standing working relationship Busby has with the city of Barrie. We are also most appreciative of the efforts the city and county have made over the past two years to direct covid funding to provide shelter at the Comfort Inn and Travelodge for unhoused persons in our community.

During the last two years, due to affordable housing shortages, the numbers of people seeking shelter have increased far past the original shelter accommodation Busby was providing prior to the pandemic. For example, during the week of June 13-19, the Busby Centre partnering with Elizabeth Fry Society Simcoe Muskoka provided shelter for 201 people at the Travelodge.

As we transition back to using space at 88 Mulcaster, which can currently accommodate approximately 37 people, we know that this will leave many people not only homeless but without even temporary shelter.

We are pleased that the termination date for motel accommodation has been extended to July 15, but we are very concerned about what shelter will be available after that date.

Could you please advise us of what plans the city is making to provide for those who will need shelter as of July 16, 2022.

We appreciate your urgent attention to this critical matter.

Rev. Susan Eagle
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