

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

January 13th 2022

**RE: 7.1 – Delegation from Homeless Health Peel**

To the attention of the Regional Chair and members of Regional Council,

I am writing on behalf of United Way Greater Toronto in support of the delegation from Homeless Health Peel and its requests for new resources to be made available to support seniors and people experiencing homelessness with chronic and acute health needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the existing structural inequities present in Peel Region and across the Greater Toronto Area, as marginalized residents have faced compounding hardships related to access to care. Senior citizens and people experiencing homelessness are two groups significantly impacted by the gaps within our social service infrastructure and have been particularly vulnerable to both the individual-level physical and mental health impacts of the 2019 novel coronavirus and the service disruptions it has caused.

Homeless Health Peel emerged during the pandemic as an organization addressing the unique healthcare needs of people experiencing homelessness, and their critical work should be sustained. The last homelessness enumeration conducted in Peel in 2018 highlighted that more than one in three or 35% of all respondents were experiencing chronic or acute medical issues.

UWGT recommends that the Regional Chair and Council Members:

1. Recognize and support proposals to address gaps within social service infrastructure and embrace new approaches such as dedicated spaces to address the healthcare needs of individuals and seniors experiencing chronic homelessness; and,
2. Support the recognition of organizations like Homeless Health Peel which are providing needed services for marginalized residents as Health Service Providers with the Ontario Ministry of Health.

These measures will help support an equitable recovery in Peel Region for some of its most marginalized residents.

Yours sincerely,



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