

# SHELTER HOTELS: SHELTER TRANSITION, SHELTER CAPACITY & SHELTER ACQUISITION

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# WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED...

What has been reinforced by the work we are doing in the shelter hotels:

- Meeting Crisis with Opportunity
  - Shelter Hotels have opened our eyes to new ways of supporting diverse homeless communities
  - People want housing and a housing system that responds to their needs
  - Homelessness is a systemic, structural problem
  - Partnerships are critical to the success of new housing models and shelters as improved housing delivery systems
  - Community happens
    - Both inside and beyond walls of the building; this has been particularly salient over the past two years as we work closely with neighbours: YDBIA, TMU, St. Michael's Choir School and local businesses



# TRANSFORMATION AT DUNDAS EAST & BEYOND



- Now is the time to do the planning for 65 Dundas St. East and the Supportive Housing System in our City.
  - We need to be cognizant that the men and women we support at 'the Bond' are individuals who have been 'decommissioned' time and again.
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- How do we, as agencies responsible to homeless individuals and communities, assure that there are appropriate system responses as we move forward with this transformation?
  - How do we, through this complex process of decanting space and transforming the site from Emergency Shelter to supportive/affordable housing, use the process to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in the system?
  - How do we, as stewards of these complex systems and programs, build resiliency into the housing continuum and move away from 'a crisis management' model?

# MOVING FORWARD ...

- All levels of government need to come to the table to build lasting solutions and assure consistent, sustainable resourcing.
- We need to work in tandem with funders to create solution focussed responses to problems rather than responding to RFPs that are driven solely by funder metrics.
- Housing is just the beginning of the discussion about access to the Social Determinants of Health.

