

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Sanders, Cheryl](#)  
**Subject:** To County Council agenda /re follow up warden, c/o Mr. Ostrander's letter and invitation.  
**Date:** Friday, January 26, 2024 10:34:37 AM

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Brian Ostrander  
Warden for Northumberland County  
Head of Northumberland County Council

I am touched by your words of interest and I appreciate noting a pressing priorities outreaching the unhoused. But we need to do better as you mentioned "*the complex relationship between homelessness and addiction*" has increased during the last 5 years. It is a fact.

Together Town and County can connect a few dots to control this crisis much better and not leaving it in our hands. I can offer the example of the [REDACTED] of St. Peters as a successful one. [REDACTED] demands, rules, control and discipline to secure the grounds makes [REDACTED] in control of [REDACTED] hub for each half day of occupancy.

I feel the magnitude of your challenge and, I can understand how a policy framework could benefit your new project. Selling Transition house on Chapel Street will lift the burden of your expenses and recuperate some costs and destigmatized the historic building value on the point of resale. I agree with you the homeless need a good shelter 24/7 and this was formerly defective as well as a too smaller house. The addicted need to feel they belong somewhere with a plan. Preferably far from a neighborhood with families. Since Transition House our neighborhood felt terrorized from their experience. Cobourg is a small Town and the good townspeople are shaken from this ordeal. Only opportunists are trying to dream big, and adopt city's measures that are an anachronism here at home. I know you can understand my vision of a semi rural Town.

What the community needs now is an Agreement with a policy framework. A professional recovery programs among the diversity of social aspects is necessary to appease the suffering and the healing towards recovery in both camps. It will be in the next Whitby Agreement. My suggestion is to be first in the race. Well designed, carried with reports and controlled it could prevent unintended negative outcomes if new crime moves to our area, along with our police services.

We have to work together to make our population safe and never again oppose our differences. We also need to trust the open process again in our community. And for those reasons I would like to contribute this outline in a policy framework :

- **RECOVERY-ORIENTED HOUSING THAT WILL SEPARATE SHELTER RESIDENTS WHO DESIRE SOBRIETY AND RECOVERY FROM SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER. HIGHLY TRAINED SPECIALISTS IN THE TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER, INCLUDING EXPERTISE**

**IN RECOVERY-ORIENTED SUPPORTS. PROGRAMS WITH POLICY FRAMEWORK AND OVERSIGHT.**

- **A MORE DIVERSE RANGE OF OPTIONS - SOME STREET-LIVING INDIVIDUALS PRIMARILY HAVE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, SOME PRIMARILY HAVE ADDICTIONS PROBLEMS, SOME ARE JUST DOWN ON THEIR LUCK AND CANNOT AFFORD HOUSING – AND YET WE HAVE ONLY ONE, TEMPORARY, LOW-BARRIER BLANKET APPROACH FOR ALL NEEDS**
- **EFFECTIVE LONGER-TERM ADDICTION TREATMENT PROGRAMS**
- **INTENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT, SUPPORTS, INTERVENTIONS, AND PROGRAMS**
- **A DIVERSE RANGE OF RECOVERY-ORIENTED PRACTICES, IN-PATIENT TREATMENT SPACES, MORE MEDICALLY SUPERVISED REHABILITATION, AND FULL RECOVERY PROGRAMS THAT OFFER CASE MANAGEMENT, COUNSELLING, PEER SUPPORT, COMMUNITY INTEGRATION, AND ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS IN REBUILDING THEIR LIVES BEYOND ADDICTION.**
- **A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES RECOVERY-BASED ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (I.E. DRUG TREATMENT COURT SERVICES).**
- **ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING WHOLE COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF HARM REDUCTION POLICY AND A STEADY INCREASE IN OPIOID-RELATED MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY.**
- **SERVICE PROVIDER ACCOUNTABILITY: AUDITS, INSPECTIONS, GENERAL BASIC STANDARDS**
- **REGULATIONS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES (SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR OUR OTHER VULNERABLE POPULATIONS SUCH AS CHILDCARE OR NURSING. (We need consistency for quality services and it is valuable as a specialty as well);**

I can arrange a meeting with you and a professional specialist on all the legal aspects of social responsibilities and many other topics if you desire. You can have your questions answered.

Last summer the people delivering social care I talked to were helpful and seemed to enjoy their work. They are young, optimistic, and with a great disposition to learn. I discussed the possibility of **extra training** with some of them and they were keen, others were thrilled. I never saw so much positive attitude from young people and their eagerness to learn. I see an opportunity to give young people a unique opportunity to become experts and PROUD of their work with salvation skills for the mentally ill, the addicted and the criminals.

I would have liked to meet in person the Transition house representative February the 12th but Cobourg is still not safe at night especially for women.

If this project fails I could discuss a plan C during the day with you Mr. Ostrander.

Things haven't changed for us. We pay all the bills and we will be imposed more increase in property taxes. This year we had a 6.8% tax increase, an extra 20% increase soon will be imposed. We deserve a comprehensive approach with a policy framework that will beat this drug crisis on our turf. Let's make it happen by being duly organized.

Respectfully,  
Johanne Loken  
Historic Cobourg

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.