

To: City of St. John's Mayor and Councillors

Re: Proposal for 21 Adams Avenue Transition House

The only differences that exist between a private individual wanting to open a transition house and a charity wanting to open a transition house are:

A) The difference between being for profit versus non-profit.

And

B) Whereas for profit meets with conflict and must seek city approval, non-profit would not meet with conflict and would not have need to seek city approval.

Everything else is exactly the same: same building, same type of clientele, same services, etc.

If the Salvation Army were to propose opening this transition house it's highly unlikely that anyone would take issue with it and therefore it seems patently unfair for anyone to take issue with it when it's a private individual making the proposal.

We should ask; if not in this neighbourhood, then where?

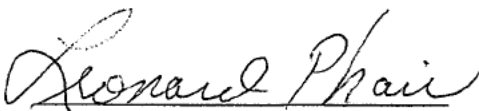
The transition house at 21 Adams Avenue will be staffed 24/7, have 24/7 security surveillance and offer professional counselling services for homeless clients and will be run in the same way as any non-profit shelter.

It's interesting to note; those who oppose this transition house seem to be unaware that there are already several privately owned homeless shelters existing right in their neighbourhood, along with many privately owned boarding houses in the area where people who were once homeless are now renting month to month without supervision. The concerns they have seem largely based upon misinformation and misconceptions regarding homelessness.

This transition house will go a long way towards helping to alleviate homelessness in the City of St. John's. It will aim to help break the cycle for those citizens who are less fortunate and give hope to those who face many barriers. Let's not allow discrimination against the most vulnerable members of our society rule the day.

Please, give credence only to the facts and merits of this proposed transition house and the good it will do to help those in need. Please don't allow sentiment, fearmongering and negative rhetoric to sway your vote.

Thanking you for your time and kind attention,



Leonard Phair

