**Date**

**Your Address**

Dear **(Politician)**

I am writing to express my concern over the way homeless people have been treated during the pandemic. Unlike people like me, they have no homes in which to isolate, and no washrooms for washing their hands. For years it has been clear that the Toronto area has a serious problem with homelessness. It is estimated that up to 10,000 people are homeless in Toronto every night, with at least 1,000 sleeping outside. While the city has made efforts to reduce crowding in shelters by creating temporary shelter spaces in empty buildings, these actions are not creating greater capacity for people who are homeless, nor addressing the reality that winter is coming and there will be a marked increase in the need for shelter with appropriate physical distancing well into the future.

I urge you to adopt an effective housing plan that will give safe, affordable housing to all those who are homeless. It is not enough to put them in hotels for a few weeks and then evict them. Nor is it practical or even healthy to dismantle tent encampments when the shelters lack sufficient room for social distancing, and have been experiencing outbreaks of virus. Homeless people deserve permanent safe housing, where they can be as healthy as the rest of us.

 As a just society we need to ensure that everyone has a safe place to sleep. I want you to do what must be done – declare homelessness a state of emergency, and use your powers to provide adequate housing for all people.

Yours truly,

**Your name**