

From: [Abraham Zebian](#)
To: [Deanna Snair](#)
Subject: Fwd: Help
Date: May 6, 2024 2:24:19 PM

From: Chantz Silver
Date: May 6, 2024 at 1:38:33 PM ADT
To: Abraham Zebian <AZebian@westhants.ca>
Subject: Help

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Chantz Silver. I am twenty-seven years old. I have worked in the mental health field now for nine years. I am a Disability Support Specialist for New Visions Special Care Homes Ltd and a mental health advocate.

Currently while I am off on maternity leave I am doing some volunteer work within the community.

I have a profound passion for helping others and a relentless commitment to helping everyone achieve success.

I see the urgent need for accessible mental health resources and the importance of breaking down barriers to mental health support.

I am dedicated to making a positive impact in others' lives and continues to advocate for a society where well-being is a universal right.

A tragic event happened here in Windsor, Nova Scotia on Saturday May 4th, 2024 an elderly man who is houseless with mobility issues was beaten up while asleep. Out of respect I will be keeping this mans name anonymous. This is incredibly disheartening and wrong.

In a previous letter I wrote I stated that homelessness is a pressing human rights issue. For people experiencing homelessness, exposure, and unsafe living conditions are a matter of life or death. Human lives are at risk.

Lawrence, a homeless man in Berwick, N.S., was sleeping in a bus shelter when he was murdered on Oct 23, 2013. The two men who admitted to killing Lawrence by setting him on fire were sentenced to life in prison in 2015 with no chance of parole for 18 and 20 years.

"The biggest thing I think I want people to remember is ... what happened to him." said Ron Lawrence, Harley's younger brother.

My vision consists of eliminating barriers, making voices heard, creating a sense of belonging and a start to a more compassionate and inclusive mental health care system.

Even though I realize that a percentage of our homeless population prefer to live on the streets, that does not mean we still do not need to support them. For example ; a permanent warming center would give this population a place to eat, get warm, have a shower or wash their clothes. These are the basics of living. I will also add that another percentage of these folks work and pay taxes.

Windsor along with many other cities and towns within the province need more resources for those who are houseless, homeless, and living rough.

For the months December through April we had a very successful warming centre with the help of 34 volunteers, and you all. The warming centre provided food, warmth, safety, socialization, and help with hygiene.

Unfortunately due to occupancy and limited funding the warming centre was not permanent. We need a more permanent solution here in Windsor, Nova Scotia. A permanent shelter for those in need.

Homeless shelters provide individuals with the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and clothing. This helps to ensure that individuals are able to maintain their health and well-being, and reduces the risk of illness and injury.

Statistics Canada just released the most recent poverty and food insecurity data for 2022—and Nova Scotia's rates are alarming. As Christine Saulnier, Director of CCPA NS says, "Seeing a 52% increase should be the wake-up call needed for the Nova Scotia government to understand just how many people are falling through the gaps in our social safety net."

Lesley Frank, Canada Research Chair in Food, Health, and Social Justice at Acadia University, said, "Food insecurity in childhood is linked to a host of negative outcomes for children... Families need economic protections now so our children and our society can thrive."

I have a desire to help alleviate suffering and improve the quality of life of those in need on a local and global scale and I am actively seeking opportunities to contribute to the success and well-being of my community.

Change happens when we all come together. I ask for you all to come together to make this possible as it is an urgent need within our community.

Thank you for your time.

Chantz Silver

Disability Support Specialist

Mental Health Advocate

