



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
December 8, 2021

## **Port Windsor Supports Family Services Windsor-Essex**

For Immediate Release

(Windsor, Ontario)

A city committee recently called homeless “a national crisis arising from a lack of adequate support for housing, mental health and addictions”.

The issues are complex, and the needs are many. Good and dedicated people in healthcare and social services have limited resources but they have the expertise to provide supports and some solutions. Local agencies such as **Family Services Windsor-Essex** offer the critical front-line care and attention to those who must otherwise feel and believe their situation to be hopeless.

Until more permanent solutions are in place, **Port Windsor** wants to support the urgent and immediate work of Family Services Windsor-Essex in their outreach programmes that work to ensure the health and safety of the homeless. That’s why Port Windsor has purchased 100 toques and 100 waterproof mats for distribution by Family Services Windsor-Essex for use in their programme this winter. And furthermore, as part of the Port’s 2021 contribution programme, Port Windsor is donating \$2021 to support the outreach programme of Family Services Windsor-Essex.

*A Windsor winter is typically cold and wet...for a homeless person, a warm hat and an insulated mat to keep you dry from the wet ground can be the difference between a difficult situation, and one of serious risk to health and well-being. Port Windsor is proud to support the essential work and services of Family Services Windsor-Essex.*

*(Steve Salmons, President & CEO, Windsor Port Authority)*

*We are grateful to the Port Authority for supporting people in our community and acknowledging the work of our homelessness Outreach Workers. Working together, we will address the immediate needs of people this winter season and eventually assist them to secure permanent housing.*

*(Joyce Zuk, Executive Director, FSWE)*

On any given night, 251 homeless people in Windsor-Essex, a 27 per cent increase from the last time the survey was done in 2018 and a 25 per cent increase from 2016. A city report also notes that the running tally of homeless people showed 476 people had experienced homelessness in the 90 days around when the just-in-time survey was done in March. The report acknowledges the priority list of 476 homeless people is a better reflection of the true number because it provides more opportunities to find them and takes into account the “hidden homeless” who are couch-surfing in friends’ apartments, or in and out of hospital or jails.

Chronic homelessness, defined as being homeless for at least six of the last 12 months, is also on the rise – from 50 per cent of single males in 2018 to 75 per cent in 2021. Twenty-six per cent of single males said they’d been homeless every month of the last three years and on average it has been 26 months since single adults have had a permanent home. (Windsor Star, Dec. 1/21)

## **Background: Port Windsor**

Vision: Connect Windsor-Essex to the World

Mission: Port Windsor will be the catalyst that transforms the future of the Windsor-Essex region as a hub of integrated international transportation.

Ontario’s third largest port, each year the Port Authority receives more than 600 ships, delivering more than 5 million tonnes of aggregate, salt, steel and grain to Windsor-Essex, and ports across the Great Lakes, and into Europe. It also hosts Ontario’s largest ship fueling depot.

Each year, Port Windsor donates 3% of its revenues to charitable and community needs. In 2021, the Authority will donate in excess of \$40,000 locally.

The Windsor Port Authority is a federal Corporation under the Canada Marine Act (1999) as one of just 17 national ports established to promote the growth, competitiveness and prosperity of Canada’s economy. The Authority is governed by a 7-person Board of Directors; one municipal and one provincial appointment, and five positions appointed by the federal government.

## **Background: Family Services Windsor-Essex**

Family Services Windsor-Essex is an amalgamated corporation of Family Service Windsor-Essex County and Citizen Advocacy Windsor-Essex. In 2012, these agencies voluntarily decided to amalgamate to form FSWE.

Family Services Windsor-Essex (FSWE) is a non-profit, charitable organization serving Windsor and Essex County. We help people to restore their ability to choose their own place in the world through counselling and individual support services. For organizations of all sizes, we offer Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) and wellness solutions.

In 2014, FWSE purchased office space at 1770 Langlois. The building's size presented an opportunity for FSWE to invite community agencies to co-locate and share office space. In searching for partner agencies with similar values and complimentary services, the idea to develop a "community hub" evolved. The Langlois Community Hub was created in the fall of 2014 to bring together complementary but previously separated services, professions and organizations across the health, mental health, legal and financial sectors. The creation of the "Hub" was a voluntary decision by the five agencies and their respective Boards of Directors to take advantage of the opportunities for greater service collaboration and cooperation, resource sharing, cross-program referral and streamlined access to services for maximized client outcomes. Community Hub Partners include: Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, Windsor-Essex Bilingual Legal Clinic, Family Services Windsor-Essex and Windsor Pride Community.

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