

On August 15, the *Toronto Star* covered the community strife sparked by the conversion of the Roehampton Hotel into a homeless shelter and the presence of a temporary (until August 31) shelter in an apartment building beside North Toronto Collegiate. Check the article at <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/08/15/a-community-divided-protesters-face-off-over-homeless-shelters-in-torontos-midtown-area.html> . One of Fairlawn's letter-writers responded, with a model that you can adapt and send, too.

Dear Editor:

North Toronto's new experience of homeless shelters in its midst shines an important light on reality.

It was easy for North Toronto to ignore the special needs of the homeless, rejected from society. They were downtown – Not in my Back Yard (NIMBY). Although they were on our streets (or sleeping in our automated bank machine areas), they were someone else's problem that we could ignore. But, these same folk were once our neighbours until they fell on bad times and got trapped by society's spider's web (not "safety net").

Citizens across the city should welcome them back to their former neighbourhoods, while supporting governments in:

- meeting the special needs of the temporarily homeless, and
- correcting the institutional flaws that make housing unaffordable, mental health services poorly accessible for all, and the drug supply deadly.

Then, I pray that my neighbours will support our governments in creating a society where everyone belongs.

Add your name