Activists urge city council to create more shelter space

Toronto is in dire need of a large emergency shelter to house people who are homeless, according to a letter sent to Mayor John Tory.

Author’s name

The urgency behind the letter was, in part, spurred by a plunge in temperature, the second week of January, and in late December the city opened a 60-bed women’s temporary program next week. A 30-bed shelter for men was opened on Bloor St. W.

“Shelter space fills up almost immediately after it becomes available,” Meagher said.

The letter was signed by more than 30 Toronto agencies involved in finding long-term solutions for the homeless experience an increased risk of dying due to overexposure to the extreme cold.

What they want is for the city to find a large space — including but not isolated to the armouries — that can house large numbers of people in a safe, hygienic and dignified way.

That is the tone and content of a letter addressed to Mayor John Tory.

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