



Region of Waterloo

August 24, 2022

Hello Neighbours,

As you may be aware, the Region of Waterloo opened a new emergency overnight shelter in the former Edith MacIntosh Child Care Centre (104 Stirling Avenue South in Kitchener) on June 24, 2022.

Operated by The Working Centre, this location has provided urgently needed shelter services for up to 60 individuals from 7 p.m. to 9 a.m., seven days a week.

Over the summer, we have had the opportunity to engage in thoughtful conversations with neighbours, individuals with lived experience and our community partners. While there is overwhelming support and acknowledgement of the critical need for these services in the community, the Edith MacIntosh site has not been without its challenges.

Accordingly, the Region will be discontinuing the current use of the Edith MacIntosh site by the end of September. The final night of operation of the shelter will be September 28, 2022.

To support the continued safety of students and staff, the Region is making additional changes to the site related to enhanced security, increased needle sweeps of the area and modifications to shelter operations.

We will remain in close contact with the Waterloo Region District School Board and the City of Kitchener. Together, we will continue to work through issues collaboratively as they arise. It is important to note that future use of Edith MacIntosh as an emergency shelter could be revisited, if required.

We recognize the start of the school year is a stressful time for students, families and school staff. Thank you for your continued support. More information will be shared with you as it becomes available.

If you have any questions, please reach out to **Region of Waterloo Housing Services**:

- Visit the Engage Waterloo Region Edith MacIntosh site – <https://www.engagewr.ca/edith-macintosh>
- Email housing@regionofwaterloo.ca
- Call 519-575-4400, ext 5008

Thank you very much for your continued support and understanding as we address this challenging issue in our community.