



The Salvation Army

Canada & Bermuda
Ontario Division

New Hope Community Church

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Giving Hope Today

September 16, 2024

Town of Orangeville

87 Broadway
Orangeville, ON, L9W 1K1

RE: ORANGEVILLE TRANSIT PILOT PROGRAM

Dear Orangeville Town Council,

The Salvation Army New Hope Community Church applauds the Town for launching its two year Fare-Free Transit Pilot in January 2023. Over these past 20 months, this pilot has provided vital transportation to Orangeville residents requiring access to important services and programs.

As the two-year pilot reaches its end date, we would like to add our voices to other service agencies in expressing our support for the continuation of this critical service. It is our estimation that approximately 40% of our program participants use the bus system to access our services, including the Food Closet, free Laundry service, Thrift Store voucher program, Church programs and more. The population seeking The Salvation Army's support often are experiencing other barriers that prevent them from having their own vehicle or being able to afford the bus. In addition, our Riddell Drive location makes it difficult for those without personal transportation to access services. This pilot has been invaluable to connecting people with the support we provide.

We are grateful that this program has been available to our clients over the past two years and are appealing to the Town to consider extending Fare-Free transit past the pilot and ideally, adopting it as a longterm option into the foreseeable future. We would welcome further dialogue on the issue and thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the conversation.

Respectfully,

Cory and Pamela Pinksen

MAJORS

Lead Pastors/Officers

PP/pp

William and Catherine Booth
Founders

Lyndon Buckingham
General

Lee Graves
Territorial Commander

Brian Armstrong
Divisional Commander