



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**August 30, 2019**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Shift Government program delivering solutions to complex problems**

(Barrie, ON) As part of the City of Barrie's 2019 Budget, Council approved the Shift Government Project. The project which is being led by the Mayor's Office aims to bring short-term and long-term results to complex problems, by collaborating with other organizations.

"I believe the Mayor's job is often about bringing the community together to address problems and pursue opportunities, said Mayor Jeff Lehman. "The municipality can't do everything by itself, but we can work with organizations in the community to support great ideas that address some of the biggest challenges facing our city"

Shift Government is currently working with organizations to pilot the following projects:

- **Connected Core – (RVH/Barrie Police/City)**
  - The goal of the Connected Core program is to coordinate existing outreach efforts in the community. The Connected Core coordinator will be holding de-escalation training as well as Naloxone training for downtown businesses. The coordinator is also working with the Georgian Employment Centre to develop a job bank of casual part time jobs for marginalized people. This Job Bank provides meaningful work for people who are farthest away from job market and helps facilitate relationship building between business owners and marginalized people. Eight downtown businesses have signed up to date including the City of Barrie and Library.
- **Impact Collective – ([Furniture Bank](#)/Furniture Link / Redwood Park/ BRIX Makerspace/Community Builders)**
  - Local social enterprises (Redwood Park, Furniture Bank & Furniture Link, and Jeff White Group) have come together in order to identify and solve existing gaps in the community, as well as offer a network of support for social enterprises in our community. In July 2019, they launched the Barrie Furniture Bank. The Barrie Furniture Bank will collect any used furniture in Barrie to then make it available to families and individuals experiencing poverty, including women and children leaving shelters, people transitioning from homelessness, and newcomers and refugees to Canada. More information available at [www.furniturebank.org](http://www.furniturebank.org)
- **Sliding Scale Market – (Barrie Housing/National Food Store)**
  - Shift Government is working on a collaboration between Barrie Housing and the private sector to bring a sliding scale (pay what you can) market for certain Barrie Housing locations. The goal is to set up the market as a social enterprise (all employees would be existing tenants of Barrie Housing).
- **Student / Senior Co-housing**
  - Shift Government is working on program to match seniors living in their home with international and nursing students to share accommodations. The seniors would provide lodging to students, and in return students would help with daily needs such as medication, doctor appointments, grocery shopping, meal prep, company. The program is based on a successful pilot in Toronto through UofT and NICE (National Institute for the Care of Elderly).
- **Health Innovation Week – (MaRS/RVH/LifeLabs - Design Challenge)**
  - Building on the Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy, a design thinking session was held in Spring 2019 with community stakeholders. The session aimed at working with diverse members of our community to co-design new approaches to addressing the opioid crisis as well as addictions prevention in Barrie.



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- Barrie Housing Flooring Community Challenge
  - Barrie Housing will be launching a community challenge to help replace aged flooring in existing units. The challenge will look for community members to volunteer their time and skills to this project.

To learn more about Shift Government, visit [www.barrie.ca/ShiftGov](http://www.barrie.ca/ShiftGov)

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