



January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Mr. Ed Holder  
Mayor, City of London  
[mayor@london.ca](mailto:mayor@london.ca)

Dear Mayor Holder,

**Re: City of London Budget Conversations on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

As London moves forward to determine the budget for our city, it is crucial that city councillors are able to advocate on behalf of the most marginalized in our community. The most vulnerable are often times the most impacted by decisions made at City Hall.

Yesterday, Councillor Kayabaga identified a proposed budget cut as “anti-immigrant, anti-poverty, anti-children, anti-women”. These words were criticized as being “insulting” by colleagues in Chambers.

Anova supports Councillor Kayabaga’s right to make connections and identify policy decisions that are discriminatory. Speaking up about how budget cuts impact children, women, immigrants and those living in poverty, is not insulting.

At Anova, we find it incredibly important to speak truth to power and lean into uncomfortable conversations about race, class, sexism and poverty. Structural violence exists in all our institutions and to impact and effect change, we must be prepared to confront difficult realities. To speak up, and speak out that budget decisions impact the most marginalized in our community is not only important, it is necessary.

Our city is in crisis, and we need disruptive conversations to happen in Chambers. Council cannot, and should not be afraid of making mistakes having messy conversations and unpacking decades of oppression. We encourage you to seek out these discussions to make our city more equitable, safe and just. We believe that London City Council is capable of this work.

If you like, you can contact me at 519-642-3003 ext. 2261 or by email at [JessieR@anovafuture.org](mailto:JessieR@anovafuture.org).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Rodger".

Jessie Rodger, M.S.W., R.S.W.  
Executive Director  
Anova: A Future Without Violence

cc: London City Councillors

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[anovafuture.org](http://anovafuture.org)

formerly Women's Community House & Sexual Assault Centre London

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