

# кійс's Sewage Overflows in Our River

# The Need for Environmental Action in Municipal Policy Making

Social Justice and Peace Studies, Community Based Learning Amanda Harvey

## **Current policy:**

- A 2.5% wastewater rate would be maintained from 2020-2023
  - Reduced from 3% rates in 2019
- Sewer separation in the downtown core
- The Downtown Core Separation program funded under the Infrastructure Renewal Program for Sanitary Sewers

#### The Issue & Local Context:

- Rainwater overflow can overwhelm sewer system
- Excess nutrients and E. Coli in the Deshkan Ziibi/Thames River
- Need for increased sewer **separation** to **prevent** further sewage overflow





#### Stakeholders:

Municipal government, Indigenous populations, homeless populations, property and business owners, wildlife.

### **Policy Recommendation:**

- Sewer separation is vital in the preservation of the Deshkan Ziibi/Thames River.
- Alongside proposed sewer reconstruction projects, the City of London ought to implement a 3% wastewater rate in its multiyear budget plan.
- The implementation of a 3% wastewater rate would generate the budgetary funds necessary to facilitate quicker sewer **separation by 0.5%** over the next 10 years.