



United Way
Guelph Wellington
Dufferin

July 8, 2021

Dear Mayor Guthrie and City Councillors,

I am writing in support of the amendment to residential zoning at 65 Delhi Street to allow the County of Wellington's transitional housing location.

All cities hope to end homelessness but few have been able to make the shifts necessary to truly address its impacts. Thanks to a committed focus by this community over the past 4 years, an end to homelessness in Guelph-Wellington is within our sights, which would make ours one of the first communities in Canada to do so.

The building at 65 Delhi Street, which historically always had a community purpose, has the opportunity to evolve to a purpose of addressing surging housing needs. With our low vacancy rates and lack of affordable housing, it is imperative that we create more places for our community's most vulnerable to call home. The proposal does not call for any additions to the current building which is a unique opportunity for us to use existing community resources to provide housing and supports.

As we've seen in Alberta, Fort McMurray is still rebuilding from the 2016 wildfires and food insecurity continued to increase years after the crisis. Recovery from COVID-19 will be a long path ahead and as a community, it's time for us to make courageous, pro-active decisions to support those who have experienced the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic.

Transitional housing is an integral part of our housing continuum. This location and the planned permanent supportive housing projects are all part of the equation to preventing chronic homelessness. United Way Guelph Wellington Dufferin is committed to helping make this happen by mobilizing our community to create the needed housing and ensuring sustainable funding so we can maintain functional zero homelessness.

Everyone should have a safe, stable and affordable place to call home, and access to supports to make that possible. I encourage City Council to approve this amendment and help put an end to homelessness in our community.

Sincerely,

Glenna Banda
Executive Director