



October 20, 2021

Guelph City Hall
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON
N1H 3A1

Dear Mayor Guthrie and Members of Council

We are writing on behalf of the Welcome in Drop In Centre and Wyndham House to extend our appreciation for Council's consideration of the investment in permanent supportive housing in Guelph. The recommendation to award \$884,000 to Grace Gardens and \$383,646 to youth-focused permanent supportive housing are funds that will contribute to both these projects meeting their capital funding goals. To achieve these capital projects, Grace Gardens (32 units) and Bellevue (8 units) require community support and partnerships with all levels of government. A commitment locally, both municipal policies that encourage affordable housing and a capital contribution, are essential to bringing this type of development to fruition.

Grace Gardens

The \$884,000 contribution will offset the City fees such as development charges, cash-in-lieu of parkland, and planning approvals. As other levels of government release approved funding after a permit is issued, one of the challenges not-for-profit affordable housing developers confront is having the significant funds available to pay development charges and cash-in-lieu of parkland at the time of permit issuance. As approximately 70% of the recommended contribution will offset these fees, it would be most helpful if the City could release the funds to cover these costs at the time the building permit is ready to be issued. The remaining 30% will assist the project with construction costs such as site servicing (new sanitary line) and a new driveway access.

Bellevue Youth Supportive Housing

For Bellevue, approximately 20% of the \$383,646 investment in this project will be used to offset municipal fees. Wyndham House would also benefit from the City funding being released at permit issuance as described above for Grace Gardens. The remaining funds recommended for this project will go to renovations to update the common areas and create individual rooms with private bathrooms.

Our organizations work together to ensure youth and adults have access to safe, affordable and supportive housing. We greatly appreciate the support of City Council and staff in moving these two developments forward to address homelessness in our community.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bentley-Lauzon, Executive Director
Wyndham House

Gail Hoekstra, Executive Director
Welcome In Drop In Centre