



October 25th, 2021

RE: Support for 10C Shared Space as the Community Activator of the Guelph Farmers' Market

Dear Mayor Guthrie and members of Council,

Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition (GNSC) is excited for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for 10C Shared Space (10C) as the Community Activator of the Guelph Farmers' Market. GNSC is a long-time member and close collaborator of 10C. Over the past decade, we have seen first-hand the growing leadership and community building that 10C has shown her in Guelph, and together our organizations work to ensure that there are ways for all people to engage and thrive as the city grows. Increased opportunities and activation of the Farmers' Market by 10C will provide valuable and expanded opportunities for community groups, including GNSC and the Neighbourhood Groups we support, to continue work that is equity-focussed and responsive to evolving community needs. The GNSC's work, which touches all corners of Guelph, is fueled by the desire to create a healthy, safe community where everyone feels at home.

10C has expressed a commitment to provide new ways for the Guelph community to come together through activation of the Farmers' Market site. We recognize that while the Farmers' Market is centrally-located, it is incredibly under-utilized and is not serving the community to its full potential. This space has the potential to become a safe gathering place, for meetings, events and other still unseen and exciting possibilities. As an example, many of the Neighbourhood Groups we work with host food-related programming that could directly benefit from access to the Farmers' Market facilities. We would be happy to collaborate to bring these ideas to life in collaboration with the 10C team. Much like the 10C community hub at 42 Carden Street, the Farmers' Market has the potential to become a valuable, well-used community resource that is welcoming, accessible, engaging, and promotes connection.

We strongly believe that 10C will deliver on their commitment to revitalize and reanimate the 11,000 of market facility and surrounding underutilized outdoor space. Speaking first-hand as 10C members and office co-tenants, we have seen 10C act in care of the community, by adapting and responding to changing COVID requirements to provide safe in-person and virtual spaces for community gathering and collaboration.

10C has consistently lived into its purpose of inspiring possibility and creating change now. We share a vision and passion for community-led work and are excited to collaborate in this new space. GNSC offers our full support of 10C as the Community Activator of the Farmers' market as we work together to create a healthy, safe community where everyone feels at home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Brendan Johnson
Executive Director
Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
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