

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Sent via email to: sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
Government of Ontario
College Park 5th Flr, 777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

RE: Permanent Supportive Housing in Guelph/Wellington

Dear Minister Jones,

We write today to formally support the request for provincial assistance with operating funding pertaining to the City's newest supportive housing project located at 10 Shelldale Crescent in Guelph. This supportive housing project is currently in its final stages of construction and will be ready for occupancy later this year. This newest supportive housing project will provide a place to call home for 32 individuals with high acuity and complex needs, with day-to-day operations that provide wrap around supports and programming to ensure housing stability is achieved and maintained for all residents. As included within the Provincial Budget, a commitment to additional supportive housing has been made possible through various streams, inclusive of the Homeless Prevention Program (HPP). The City of Guelph, County of Wellington (Guelph-Wellington), and its community partners are committed to the development of additional affordable and supportive units to ensure that everyone has a place to call home.

Included as one of four strategic areas of growth within the City's Strategic Plan, improving housing supply and partnerships is a key factor to meet the City's housing pledge. As you can see with this partnership, this work has already commenced, and partnerships will continue to be made to ensure that additional housing options are made available for those in need.

Our ask

The City of Guelph is in support of the proposal brought forward by community partners in June 2023, followed by a formal business case that was submitted in mid-October 2023, who will be responsible for the operation of this supportive housing project. Stonehenge Therapeutic Community (STC), and the Guelph Community Health Centre (CHC) are currently seeking \$3 million



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annually in operational funding to establish individualized, 24/7 supportive housing and wrap-around supports to address the needs of 32 people with complex, high acuity needs. This funding will provide housing and wrap-around supports for 32 high-acuity tenants at the Kindle Communities project. In addition, this funding will create capacity for shared wrap-around services for three additional supportive housing projects in the community. The funding will therefore support a total of **108 supportive housing beds** in Guelph.

Background information

Housing affordability is at crisis levels in Ontario and many providers are facing increased demand, with evolving and often complex needs of their tenant communities, and a lack of support to build additional units. To date, the City of Guelph and County of Wellington have made significant financial commitments towards this project, with the City providing over 1.8 million in capital funding, and the County providing subsidies for these units to ensure depth of affordability is achieved.

Additional funding for operations would alleviate pressures on housing waitlists, the Guelph-Wellington By-Name List for homeless individuals and families, and will address the healthcare and housing gap for people with complex, high acuity physical, mental, and substance use health needs in Guelph and Wellington County with reduced emergency department visits. If Provincial operational funding is not secured, this project may not open in 2023 which would mean there would be a number of individuals in Guelph-Wellington who would be without a place to call home, which is of concern especially leading into the winter months.

Thank you for your consideration for this need in Guelph-Wellington. If you would like to connect in the interim, I encourage you to reach out to the City at intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca

Sincerely,



Mayor Cam Guthrie
City of Guelph

CC: CAO Scott Stewart, City of Guelph; DCAO Colleen Clack-Bush, City of Guelph; CAO Scott Wilson, Wellington County; Minister of Housing Paul

Calandra; Associate Minister of Housing Rob Flack; Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael Tibollo; Melissa Kwiatkowski, Guelph Community Health Centre; Kristen Kerr, Stonehenge Therapeutic Community; Daria Allan-Ebron, Kindle Communities; Leisha Burley, Kindle Communities