



Dear City of Guelph Council and Staff,

I am writing on behalf of the Guelph YMCA-YWCA with the full support of our board of directors rejecting the application to permit the sale of cannabis at 739 Woolwich Street.

Our organisation implores decision makers to not only look at the current use of businesses on Woolwich Street but the future uses as well. Proximal to the applicant's property will be the new CMHA facility. This facility will provide mental health supports for children and youth, including addiction supports.

In the fall of 2019, I had the pleasure of touring a centre that will provide many of the same supports that CMHA will be delivering on this future site. The facility was in Kelowna, BC, and is known as the Foundry. It is a facility that is located a little bit outside of the downtown core of Kelowna and this was intentional. The Foundry had over 2,300 unique visitors' access supports and programs in 2019. When I asked about the location of the Foundry and why they choose a site outside of the downtown, core staff shared that the youth who were dealing with substance abuse issues were vocal about choosing a location that was accessible, but not close to the core where they purchased their drugs.

Given the audience that CMHA will be providing services for, I ask our municipal decision makers to treat CMHAs future home in the same way that they would treat a school when considering a permit for the sale of cannabis and deny the application.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Vogt', is written over a faint, light-colored circular stamp or watermark.

Geoff Vogt, CEO

Cyndy Forsyth, Board Chair
Matt McNally, Director
Rob Cliff, Director
Jessica Barrie, Director
Anita Acai, Director

Harold Whiteside, Vice Chair
Jonathan Knowles, Director
Rosemary Fernandes Walker, Director
Heather MacDougal, Director