



Family Counselling and
Support Services
FOR GUELPH-WELLINGTON

A resilient and supported community.

October 13, 2020

Dear Mayor and Guelph City Council,

I am writing you today to express our support for Kindle Communities' permanent supportive housing project. Supportive Housing is an evidence-based and cost-effective solution for people who are chronically homeless and/or highly vulnerable because of long-term disabilities.

Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph-Wellington (FCSSGW) will not only be a neighbour to this critically needed site we are also an integral part of the community and provide mental health and social services to all ages. These services guide people through life's challenges, whether they are emotional, developmental, or professional. The programs provided by FCSSGW deeply impact people's lives. Staff members are proud to play an essential role in fostering wellbeing to build a resilient community.

Currently, the housing wait list for a person with developmental challenges, and many of our clients also have mental health challenges, is eight years. Our clients may be couch surfing, living on the streets or in a motel, and some are being trafficked. In addition, I have personally been an Executive Director for a supportive housing agency in the past and know the value of what permanent housing means to residents of a community – living independently not only dignifies and respects each resident's value in our community – it allows for them to live their life to the best of their ability and decreases their dependency on our social services system.

Kindle Communities, along with their project partners Guelph Community Health Centre and the Skyline Group of Companies, have a long history in the Onward Willow Neighbourhood as service providers, property owners and neighbours. We are confident that they have the skills and expertise to fill the notable gap in affordable housing in our community – an issue that has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic – and help one of the most vulnerable segments of our population.

Sharing the vision of housing for all,

Joanne Young Evans, CAE
Executive Director