

**jim ward associates**  
**SOCIAL RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

April 26, 2007

City Clerk  
City of Toronto  
City Hall  
Toronto M5H 2N2

Dear City Clerk:

**Re: Proposal by Parkdale Activity-Recreation Centre to redevelop 194 Dowling Ave.**

I believe the PARC proposal to redevelop 194 Dowling Ave. as affordable housing for economically and socially marginalized people is to go before the Executive Committee of City Council on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

I am writing in support of the proposal for the following reasons:

- 1) There is a paucity of affordable housing in the City of Toronto.
- 2) There is a large number of economically and socially marginalized people in the City, many of whom remain on the margins, simply because they can not afford safe and secure housing. Their lives are under constant pressure. Each day is taken up with the struggle for survival. Being appropriately housed provides them with the opportunity to make a real contribution to the City.
- 3) PARC has several decades of experience in working closely with this population. In recent years they have effectively provided and managed supportive housing at their main site.
- 4) The proximity of PARC facilities and staff to the 194 Dowling Ave. site means that supports from people who understand the issues that face this population are close at hand. Staff also understands how to work closely with the wider community to ensure the proposed housing and its residents will be an asset to that community.

For these reasons, I see the PARC proposal as an important step in making Toronto a more livable city.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Ward PhD