

October 17, 2013

**Honorary Patron**  
The Hon. David C. Onley  
Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

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**Chief Executive Officer**  
Garry Pruden

Councillor Peter Milczyn  
Chair, Planning and Growth Management Committee  
100 Queen St. W., Suite C51  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor,

We are writing to you today in support of the proposed recommendations in the upcoming October 23rd meeting of the Planning and Growth Management Committee that will make living in Toronto more inclusive and accepting of people with an intellectual disability.

Since 1948, Community Living Toronto has worked to provide community-based opportunities and inclusion for people with an intellectual disability. This includes employment training and support, education liaison, early childhood support and residential living. Our goal is to help support people with an intellectual disability to enjoy the same opportunities as other citizens and live as normal a life as possible in neighbourhoods and communities of their choice.

We were very pleased to see several amendments to the by-law from its original draft that would have had severe impact on people with disabilities. The final recommendations made by the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to eliminate the distancing requirement of 250 metres for homes with 10 or fewer persons will expand living options and the ability for people with intellectual disabilities to participate in their community. Eliminating this distancing requirement and allowing people to live where they choose upholds their personal rights as citizens and help ensure people with an intellectual disability are part of their neighbourhoods..

However, the recommendation to remove the minimum number from three and have the one class of group home defined as up to 10 will on one hand help discourage large, congregate living situations for people with disabilities which we would support. Permitting residences of less than 10 to form without restriction distancing restrictions is also positive as per our comments above. The remaining concern however rests with licensing requirements for this group of homes. We do not believe that licensing requirements should apply to homes with fewer than 6 individuals, and certainly not for homes with 3 or fewer persons.. It is our position that a person with an intellectual disability has the right to choose where they live and with whom. Licensing requirements could severely impact this right. There are no restrictions or curfews limiting their personal activity nor are they a threat to the safety of their community

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We hope the Committee will support the recommendations of the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning in the drafting of this by-law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Garry W. Pruden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "G".

Garry W. Pruden  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Councillor Josh Colle  
Councillor John Filion  
Councillor Frances Nunziata  
Councillor Karen Stintz  
Councillor Adam Vaughan