

January 18, 2016

Toronto and East York Community Council  
c/o City Clerk's Office  
City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
100 Queen St. West  
Toronto, ON  
M5H 2N2

To: Members of Toronto/East York Community Council:

Regarding the request to Amend the Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Application No. 15118233 STE 30 OZ: 875 and 887 Queen Street East, Toronto

As a member of the Red Door Family Shelter Capital Campaign Committee I would like to express my strong and enthusiastic support for this Application. I have had the opportunity to review the plans for the new shelter building, to be incorporated into the new mixed use residential building at 875 and 887 Queen Street East, and am excited to be a participant in providing a new shelter for Red Door's clients.

I am fully supportive of the partnership between the City of Toronto and the applicant to construct the new purpose built shelter at this location and the City to provide a long term lease to the Red Door Family Shelter where the shelter can provide much needed support and services to homeless families and their children.

The Red Door Shelter's current building was never designed to accommodate and serve over 100 people a day. The clients lack privacy. Different families are required to share the same bedrooms. There is insufficient space for support programs. Clients are often unable to draw support from each other as a community. In short, the building is institutional, dilapidated, insecure and over capacity and the existing situation is unsustainable. The new facility to be constructed as a result of the planning application before you provides a positive and long-term future for both the Red Door Shelter and the families they serve.

In 2015 The Red Door Family Shelter served over 603 families and 55% of all shelter residents were children. The proposed new purpose-built shelter will be the safe, modern sanctuary that homeless families need to heal and rebuild their lives. Homeless families deserve the best of what we can do to help them and this wonderful new shelter, in the heart of an amazingly supportive community, will do exactly that!

As a volunteer for the Red Door Family Shelter I want to thank all of the City staff from the many City Divisions and the team at Harhay for their ongoing support of the Shelter and their commitment to creating a permanent home for the shelter at 875 Queen Street East.

In closing I would strongly encourage the members of the Toronto East York Community Council to support the application before you today. Your vote in support of the application will provide the foundation needed to build a better future for the Red Door Family Shelter and most importantly the homeless families that are served in building a better future.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Simmie

Red Door Shelter Capital Campaign Committee Member  
Board Member