



Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services
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Attn.: John Tory, Mayor
Chair, Executive Committee, City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor, 100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

June 15, 2017

Re: in Support of the Winchester Ave. Houses Revitalization Project

Dear Mayor Tory and Executive Committee:

It is my pleasure to send this letter in support of the proposed revitalization of Winchester Avenue houses #13-15, and 17-19, on behalf of Margaret's Community Housing and Support Services ("Margaret's"). Margaret's is a dynamic multi-service agency providing a continuum of housing and community support services to individuals with mental illness, living in poverty, and/or experiencing homelessness. While our housing programs entirely focus on women 18 years of age and older, we offer a varied range of innovative community-based services to both adult women and men.

Since Margaret's opened its doors in 1984 as a high support transitional housing program named in the honour of Margaret Frazer, a well-known community builder, our track record has continued to speak for itself. We have contributed to the reduction of the impact of poverty and homelessness on marginalized communities in Toronto by effectively housing and supporting women with mental health issues, and by providing an array of greatly needed services to women and men facing homelessness in key improvement areas. Through our work, we have built strong relationships with Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC), the City of Toronto, provincial and federal stakeholders, and a number of other community-based housing and social service providers in Toronto.

Margaret's Board welcomes and wholeheartedly supports this expansion opportunity, and rejoices in having consulted and positively engaged local officials and the Winchester Residents Association to garner their support. We view this highly collaborative initiative in partnership with the Affordable Housing Office and TCHC as a great example of putting in action several of the recommendations from the *Tenants First* report and the Mayor's Taskforce on Toronto Community Housing. We know it won't be easy, but we are confident that this is the way forward in order to meaningfully improve tenants' experiences and transform communities for the better.

I hope that the Executive Committee favourably considers Margaret's proposal, an enhanced and sustainable model for preventing homelessness and successfully housing clients with complex issues.

Sincerely,

Aline Nizigama
Chair of the Board of Directors
Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services