



## **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** **Ontario Regional Council**

**VOICE OF THE POOR ADVOCACY COMMITTEE**

[www.ssvp.on.ca](http://www.ssvp.on.ca)



MARCH 11 2019

### **RE: Support for Request to Amend the Zoning By-law for the City of Toronto 569-2013 As-of-Right Zoning for Secondary Suites**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a non-profit registered charity that has been serving our neighbours in need in Canada since 1846. In Ontario, each year over 5000 of our volunteers visit more than 170,000 people offering assistance such as friendship, food and furniture vouchers. In the City of Toronto, our organization operates four women's shelters, eleven residences for people recovering from addiction issues, three residences for people with developmental disabilities and one supportive housing location for people living with mental health challenges.

Owing to our extensive experience serving people in need throughout the City of Toronto, we have seen how important it is for families and individuals to have access to safe, secure and affordable housing in order to build healthy lives and healthy communities.

**With this in mind, we fully support the proposed amendments to Zoning By-law 569-2013 that are designed to encourage the development of secondary suites in existing homes.**

The proposed amendments; permitting secondary suites in homes less than five years old; allowing suites in townhouses city-wide; reducing parking requirements; and removing unit size restrictions are reasonable proposals that are reflective of the current realities and needs of the city.

Having restrictions based on the age of the home and its location in the city are arbitrary and unfair, the policy should be universal and evenly applied across Toronto. Easing the requirements on parking spaces recognises the fact that for many people, especially low income individuals, car ownership is less and less common. A 2018 Transportation Tomorrow survey indicates that 28% of households in Toronto do not even own a car.

We acknowledge that these amendments alone are not enough to solve the affordable housing crisis in Toronto. However, we see them as a positive step in the right direction.

Sincerely;

Danny Bourne  
Voice of the Poor Advocacy Committee  
Ontario Regional Council  
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Rob Greenaway  
President, Toronto Central Council  
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul