



NISHNAWBE HOMES INC.

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March 10, 2022

Dear City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Board

I am writing on behalf of Nishnawbe Homes Inc.'s strong support of the City of Toronto and Na-Me-Res' (Native Men's Residence) application to modify the façade of the building located at 67 Adelaide Street East, Toronto. Nishnawbe Homes fervently endorses the advancement of a decolonized approach to the development of Toronto's first Indigenous low barrier men's shelter and the adoption of Indigenization of the building through architectural design.

It's vastly important that this location, situated on Treaty 13 land, accurately represent and depict the First Peoples of the land, on which the structure was originally built. The City of Toronto has identified "reconciliation" as a priority and this "Call to Action" must be honoured and demonstrated by being inclusive of the decolonization of 67 Adelaide Street, East.

"Reconciliation is about establishing and maintaining a mutually respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in this country. For that to happen there must be awareness of the past, an acknowledgement of the harm that has been inflicted, atonement for the cause, and action to change." (*Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015, p. 6*)

Knowing the history of the land we stand on is vitally important, as is heritage preservation. In guaranteeing the preservation of heritage, we should not be limited to preserving only settler heritage, but openly acknowledge the history and heritage of the first people. In doing so, we advocate for the right to self-determination of Indigenous service organizations and support the work they do in creating and maintaining a culturally identifiable safe space for the community.

The new Na-Me-Res men's shelter will address and alleviate the over-representation of Indigenous homeless in Toronto. This is a growing need that must be recognized and met with support and understanding. Culturally appropriate Indigenous services delivered from a building that visually represents the Indigenous people is a vital component of in-service delivery. The development identified in this letter is necessary and instrumental in narrowing service gaps, and supporting community members mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Our organization stands in support of Na-Me-Res' right to self-determination through the development of the low barrier men's shelter at 67 Adelaide Street East, and we encourage the residents of Toronto to join in acknowledging Toronto's rich Indigenous history and heritage.

In unity and support,

Frances Sanderson,
Executive Director
Nishnawbe Homes Inc.