

Dear Toronto & East York Community Council,

Re: Variances for 191 College St.

About More Neighbours Toronto

More Neighbours Toronto is a volunteer-only organization of housing advocates that believe in building more multi-family homes of all kinds for those who dream of building their lives in Toronto. We advocate for reforms to increase our city's ability to build more homes in every neighbourhood. We are a big-tent organization with members across the political spectrum who are committed to counterbalancing the anti-housing agenda that has dominated Toronto's politics, created an affordability crisis, and cost burdened a new generation of aspiring residents. We are firmly committed to the principle that housing is a human right and believe Toronto should be inclusive and welcoming to all.

Position

More Neighbours supports the proposed affordable mass-timber project at 191-199 College St. and 74-76 Henry St. It would serve past, present and future residents in the Queen's Park and St. Patrick PMTSAs and from various walks of life, particularly students near the University of Toronto and other institutions, people who work at or may have patients at the numerous hospitals in the area. Torontonians would benefit from living closer to where they want to be, work or seek education; and from being near a panoply of higher-order transit.

As someone with an acceptance to a planning program from a university in downtown Toronto, I believe this structure responsibly models what students should seek to achieve and collaborate on as engineers, planners and any other professionals that may be involved with this building proposal. The mass timber built form would allow the structure to be erected faster from approval compared to traditional buildings, bringing 490 inhabitable housing units (408 of which are affordable) quicker to renters wanting to occupy housing in that way indefinitely, permanently or at a particular time in their lives.

Sincerely,

Thaddeus W. Sherlock More Neighbours Toronto