



April 8, 2026

Economic and Community Development Committee
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

*Re: Applegrove Community Complex: Update on Relocation Options
EC26.6 - Committee Meeting – April 9, 2026*

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Board of Management of Applegrove Community Complex, we are writing to express our strong support for the City to secure a permanent, stable, and accessible home for Applegrove within the community it has served for 47 years. Each and every one of us chose to join the Board of Management because we value the caring, connection and essential supports that Applegrove provides. It is a small but mighty organization that is very well loved by its east end community.

Applegrove is a vital, multi service community centre that fosters joy, promotes well-being, and builds social connections for residents of Toronto's east end. Each year, Applegrove serves more than 3,000 children, families, seniors, and other individuals through programs that span the life course. Its impact extends beyond direct services, strengthening the broader neighbourhood through collaboration, mutual support, and community leadership.

In recent years, Applegrove has demonstrated its essential role in community resilience. During the pandemic, it supported hundreds of seniors through regular check ins and food delivery. Applegrove was instrumental in the development of the East End Food Hub at Glen Rhodes Church, improving local access to healthy food and food-focused programming. It has also played a key role in supporting tenants and working alongside Toronto Community Housing during the Don Summerville revitalization, helping residents navigate significant change while maintaining community connection and stability.

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The Need for Space to Support Community and Grow

For decades, Applegrove has operated out of Duke of Connaught Public School and various satellite spaces. While this arrangement has allowed Applegrove to grow alongside valued community partners, it also presents significant constraints. Operating within a school limits accessibility, hours of operation, availability of dedicated program and office space, and the range of services that can be offered. As community needs continue to grow and change, these limitations increasingly hinder Applegrove's ability to respond effectively, fulfill the mandate of AOCCs as per the Relationship Framework for the City of Toronto and Association of Community Centres (AOCCs), and contribute to City efforts to enhance social equity, social well-being and public engagement.

The absence of stable, dedicated space continues to constrain Applegrove's ability to deliver its programs efficiently and effectively. It creates ongoing uncertainty in fundamental operations—from scheduling and program planning to making even modest space improvements or accommodating a growing team. These limitations directly affect the organization's capacity to meet increasing community needs and to generate the revenue needed to do so.

City Council has long recognized these realities and Councillor Fletcher has been a steadfast champion in advancing City efforts to find a permanent home for Applegrove. With viable pathways now available, a growing recognition of the critical role AOCCs play, and current shifts occurring across the school system, this is a moment that calls for decisive action. Delaying further risks compounding existing pressures and missing a rare window of opportunity.

We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend that the City of Toronto commit to securing and funding a permanent home for Applegrove, supported by a defined plan and timeline. After nearly five decades of service, Applegrove and the community it serves, deserve a lasting home that reflects its enduring contribution and secures its impact for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to strong, inclusive neighbourhoods.



Tammy Rogers
Chair
On behalf of the Board of Management
Applegrove Community Complex