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November 5, 2020

Re: Foyer Richelieu Welland Expansion

Mr. Jim Bradley
Chair, Niagara Regional Council
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON
L2V 4T7

Dear Mr Bradley,

Foyer Richelieu serves the seniors of Niagara, in Welland, in developing and operating a first class not-for-profit Francophone long-term care (LTC) home as designated by the French Language Services Act where 95% of the residents are currently French speaking. We are also the only French designed LTC in the HNHB LHIN where more than 2/3rds of our staff are bilingual. Being the only francophone LTC in the Golden Horseshoe it is of great importance that Foyer Richelieu to grow to a viable size to meet the needs of future generations of francophones. This is why the provincial government awarded Foyer Richelieu 66 additional LTC licences where we will build a new LTC home that will double the capacity from 62 to 128 beds. Phase two will retrofit the existing facility to create Maison Richelieu, with 50 new wellness suites for supportive housing.

We are seeking a capital investment through the Niagara Region Permissive Grant Program of \$400,000 to help fund a major expansion of Foyer Richelieu that will create a campus of care for seniors to help reduce wait times for LTC and supportive housing.

This will match the \$400,000 permissive grant the Welland City Council approved for our project in 2019.

Benefits to Niagara:

- There are typically at least 70 people waiting in Niagara hospitals for LTC beds. The cost to taxpayers is \$1,000 per night for a hospital bed compared with \$185 per night at Foyer Richelieu. Access to more hospital

Un milieu francophone et catholique au service des aînés

A French and Catholic Home serving our seniors



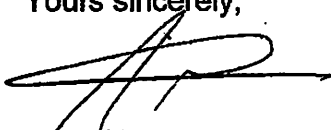
beds will also help reduce offload delays for paramedics at emergency departments. This \$30 million project will bring construction jobs, and create 100 new positions for professionals and other staff who will, in turn, invest in the local economy through property taxes, supporting businesses and services, and taking part in recreational and cultural activities.

A major challenge facing Niagara is that, per capita, Welland is one of the oldest populations in Niagara (Niagara Region Census, 2011) and Niagara is one of the oldest populations (per capita) in the country (Statistics Canada, 2011). As you are aware, Welland has been identified as an emergency area for shortages of LTC licences in Ontario. In South Niagara, we experience an above average older population than the provincial average requiring a well planned and executed strategy to provide the right care, at the right time and at the right place.

According to Dr. Samir Sinha, Expert Lead for Ontario's Senior Care Strategy, the province of Ontario had approximately 77,000 LTC licences with about 19,000 unique people on the waitlist in 2014. Now this number has increased to over 40,000 unique people waiting. Recently, (September, 2020) the HNHB LHIN reported that it had 3,613 LTC beds in Niagara with 5,169 on the waiting list and 472 LTC licences in Welland with 1,089 unique people currently waiting admission.

In collaboration with the Niagara Region we are confident that we can reduce some of the burden on Niagara's need of LTC licences and assure that we retain important breadwinning jobs for our citizens plus guarantee the fiscal viability of Foyer Richelieu Welland, the only francophone LTC in all Southern Ontario.

Yours sincerely,



Sean Keays
Chief Administrative Officer

C.C. Mayor Frank Campion, City of Welland
Councillor Leanne Villella, Niagara Region
Councillor Pat Chiocchio, Niagara Region
Ron Tripp, Acting CAO Niagara Region
Mr. Steve Zerbos, Acting CAO City of Welland