

Stantec Consulting Ltd. 600-171 Queens Ave London ON N6A 5J7

May 7, 2021 File: 161413720

Attention: Mr. Todd Harrison, Regional Treasurer Regional Municipality of Niagara 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Dear Mr. Harrison,

Reference: 155 Ontario St. St. Catharine's - Regional Development Charges - Extension Request for Demolition Credits, under By-law No. 2017-98 - Seasons Retirement Communities (St. Catharine's) LP

Please accept this letter in support of a formal application for extending the timeframe to use the redevelopment credit permitted under subsection 18 (c) of the Regional Development Charges By-law (By-law No. 2017-98). The applicant, Seasons Retirement Communities (St. Catharine's) LP (also registered as 1671366 Ontario Ltd.), is seeking an extension of three additional years of demolition credits (due August 2021) for the redevelopment of the property identified as 155 Ontario St., St. Catharine's (former Hotel Dieu Hospital property), where demolition takes place on a brownfield site.

These lands have been identified, through the Environmental Site Assessment process, as requiring significant remediation works that has taken multiple years to undertake. Development has been unable to proceed as expected on these lands due to delay in completing the necessary remediation, notably the remediation of petroleum-impacted soil within the property.



Figure 1. Former Hotel Dieu Hospital

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The former use of the property was institutional, as it was the site of the Hotel Dieu Health Sciences Hospital Facilities, as shown in Figure 1.

In accordance with the Environmental Site Assessment Phase I and II, two (2) areas with significant, historic environmental issues on the subject lands were investigated in advance of redevelopment (Figure 2), with the following remediation works occurring:

- 1. **AREA 1**: An underground storage tank (UST) located north adjacent to the Annex building.
  - Steel UST removed without incident following removal and disposal of residual tank fuel and water.
  - Six (6) confirmatory soil samples were removed from the excavation along with duplicate QA/QC samples and were submitted for petroleum hydrocarbon (PHC) and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and total xylenes (BTEX) analyses, to understand the extent of the impacted soil. The evacuation site was subsequently regraded using on-site soils.
  - Representative soil samples were also collected from the stockpiled soils adjacent
    to the excavation and submitted for PHCs, BTEX and metals, inorganics analyses.
    These samples did not meet Ministry standards for conductivity; and therefore,
    were removed from the site (between December 2016 and March 2017) and
    disposed of at a Ministry-licensed receiver.
- 2. **AREA 2**: Historic petroleum hydrocarbon impacted soil in the vicinity of the former boiler room (at the western portion of the site) including the UST located east of the former boiler room.
  - Steel UST removed without incident following removal and disposal of residual tank fuel and water.
  - Thirteen (13) confirmatory soil samples were removed from the excavation along with two (2) duplicate QA/QC samples and were submitted for petroleum hydrocarbon (PHC) and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and total xylenes (BTEX) analyses. Sampling revealed that two of the areas did not meet Ministry soil standards. Additional excavation work and subsequent collection of three (3) additional confirmatory soil samples from the excavation along with a duplicate QA/QC sample and submitted them for PHCs and BTEX analyses, which met Ministry standards. Subsequent re-grading occurred suing nearby on-site soils.
  - Thirty-eight (38) representative soil samples were collected from the stockpiled soil adjacent to the excavation and were submitted for analyses, which revealed that the submitted samples met Ministry standards. The material was subsequently used to backfill the nearby larger excavation.

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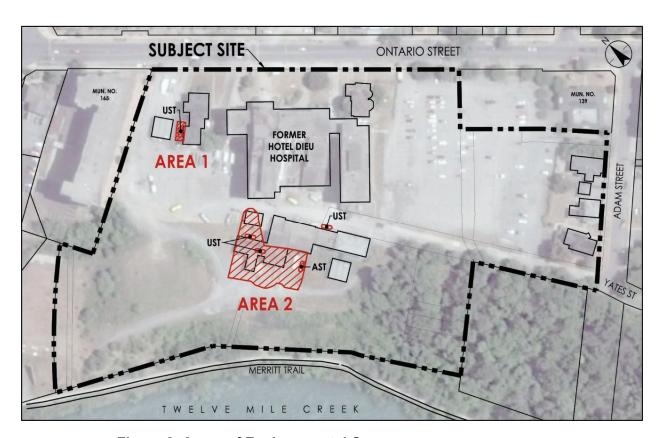


Figure 2. Areas of Environmental Concern

In summary, a Phase 1 and 2 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and a subsequent soil delineation program demonstrated the need for these site remediation activities, which included the decommissioning of two (2) USTs, soil remediation activities, and conducting confirmatory sampling and chemical analysis work. This was documented in a Remediation Report for 155 Ontario St., St. Catharines, ON (March 13, 2017, WSP).

In consultation with the Conservation Authority and the City of St. Catharine's, it was expressed that there was a requirement by Niagara Region to complete an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the Site, as well as a geotechnical report. These studies were required as part of the development process as a result of the environmental concerns on the Site stemming from the remediation. There was site disturbance to remediate the contaminated area that caused negative impacts on the soil stability and disturbed the top of bank line. As such, a geotechnical report was warranted to study the re-establishment of the top of bank location and the slope stability, and provide setbacks for the development, in Area 2. Furthermore, considerations to existing municipal services had to be addressed through detailed engineering design due to brownfield remediation. As a result of these additional approvals and studies, the project was significantly delayed.

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The remediation works described above have extended the timeframe for redeveloping the site to an 'Apartment Building/Long Term Care Facility' and have led to complexities in meeting the "Rules with Respect to Redevelopment – Demolitions" outlined in subsection 18 (a) of the By-law for demolition permits numbered: 68-2017. These permits were issued at two intervals. The first was in August of 2016 – the demolition of the Hotel Dieu Hospital; and, the second in July 2020 – the building permit issued for Phase 1. These have been provided on the Demolition Credit Review attached to this letter, as well as an indication of the total remaining future credits.

Currently, Phase 1 of the re-development is proceeding. Having received Site Plan Approval (SP-17-024), Phase 1 is currently under construction and the Final Site Plan agreement has been signed for the whole Site. As such, the applicant is continuing to redevelop the site as planned. Figure 3 shows the three phases of the proposed re-development.

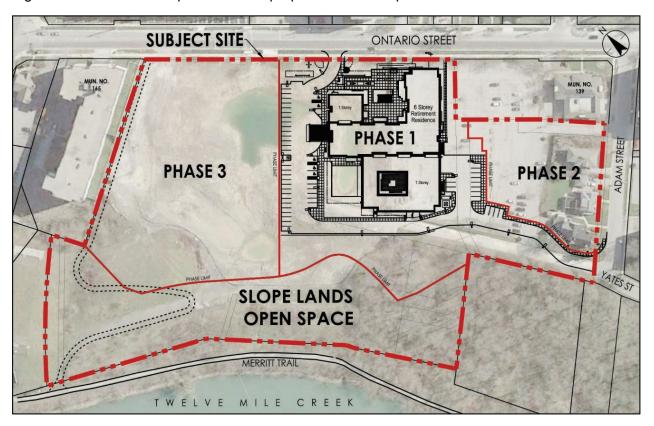


Figure 3. Phases of Development

Based on comments provided by City of St. Catharines staff, it is understood that the filing of a Record of Site Condition (RSC) in accordance with Ontario Regulation 153/04 is not required for the Site at this time, as there is no change in use or occupancy of the site. Therefore, no RSC has been submitted to the Province's Brownfield Environmental Site Registry.

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We are aware this request will need to be presented to Regional Council for approval and would appreciate any additional guidance on how we can help to facilitate the next steps. As outlined in the attached, the remaining Demolition Credit expires in June 2021; therefore, claiming these credits is time sensitive.

Regards,

Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Amelia Sloan, MCIP RPP

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Attachment: Demolition Credit Review

c. Taya Devlin – City of St. Catharine's
David Gallagher – Seasons Retirement Communities
Brian Blackwell – Stantec Consulting Ltd.

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## **Demolition Credit Review**

155 Ontario St - St. Catharines, On

**Seasons Retirement Communities** 

May 7, 2021

Total Demolition Credits Available					
Description	Demolition Permit	Date Issued	Demo Credit Expiry Date	Eligible Credit Building Area	Credit Type
155 Ontario Street	16-109945-IS	August 2016	August 2021	219,036.97 ft <sup>2</sup>	Institutional Rate
Former Hotel Dieu Hospital	16-109948-IS				

Total Available - 2020 Rates			
Development Charge / Demolition Credit	Available Demolition Credit		
\$8.89 per ft <sup>2</sup>	\$1,947,238.66 (219,036.97 ft <sup>2</sup> )		

Total Demolition Credits Claimed to Date					
Description	Building Permit	Date Issued	Date Claimed	Claimed Credit Unit Count	Credit Type
155 Ontario Street New Seniors Facility	19-112048-RN	July 2020	July 2020	143 Units	Special Care
155 Ontario Street New Seniors Facility	19-112048-RN	July 2020	July 2020	17,264.00 ft <sup>2</sup>	Institutional

Total Claimed - 2020 Rates			
Development Charge / Demolition Credit	Claimed Demolition Credit		
\$7,433 per Unit	\$1,062,919.00		
\$8.89 per ft <sup>2</sup>	\$153,476.96		
Total Claimed	\$1,216,395.96		

Total Demolition Credits Remaining					
Description	Demolition Permit	Total Available 2020 Rates	Total Claimed 2020 Rates	Total Remaining 2020 Rates	Dollar to ft <sup>2</sup> Conversion
155 Ontario Street	16-109945-IS	\$1,947,238.66	\$1,216,395.96	\$730,842.70	Dollar / \$8.89
Future Development	16-109948-IS	(219,036.97 ft <sup>2</sup> )	(136,827.44 ft <sup>2</sup> )	(82,209.53 ft <sup>2</sup> )	(Institutional Rate)

Total Remaining - Future			
Total Remaining for	Demo Credit		
Future Credits	Expiry Date		
82,209.53 ft <sup>2</sup>	August 2021		
(Institutional Rate)	Plus Extension		

## Notes:

- Demolition credit expiry dates shown above are original and do not include requested extensions
- Demolition credits are requested to be extended by 3 years, with a new expire date being August 2024
- Dollar amounts shown based on Niagara Region 2020 development charge rates, rates increase yearly

