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Date: March 10th, 2021

Attention: York Region Clerk, and Regional Councilors

Subject: Support Housing Rent Supplement Support for Individuals who Live on a Provincial Housing Allowance, and receive Healthcare Supports

Christian Horizons would like to add our support to Reena's request for Rent Supplements for the Lou Fruitman Reena Residence and the development of a fair and equitable process to deliver rent supplements to individuals qualifying for healthcare supports in the years ahead.

Christian Horizons is a non-profit agency that supports people with intellectual disabilities. We currently provide a range of services including employment, recreational and residential services to approximately 2000 people throughout Ontario and Saskatchewan, which includes about 300 people in Toronto and York. Christian Horizons serves and values the diversity of all people regardless of race, gender or religion.

Christian Horizons has worked in partnership with Reena to support people with intellectual disabilities for many years. Both agencies currently sit on the Toronto Developmental Service Alliance (TDSA). This group has been instrumental in securing rent subsidies and affordable housing supports for people with intellectual disabilities by working with local municipalities and builders throughout the GTA.

Reena has consistently created communities of belonging for all people and especially for those with intellectual disabilities.

Although our organization does not currently build or own not-for-profit housing facilities, we do rely on for-profit rental property operators willing to have our clients rent from them.

The individuals we support require rent supplements to bridge the gap between \$497/month ODSP and the average market rent in York Region.

These rent supplements ensure that those in need who qualify for healthcare supports, also have the ability to keep a roof over their head.

We look forward to the passage of this resolution and working with the York Region staff team that will be charged to set up a fair and equitable process to deliver rent supplements to individuals qualifying for healthcare and or social supports in the years ahead.

We hope this resolution will pass, and that the result will be a clear mandate to staff to execute, enabling York Region to join other Municipal and Regional jurisdictions in the Province who have already recognized the shared responsibility of providing “deeply affordable” housing to individuals who through no fault of their own are living on a monthly shelter allowance, and provided a clear mandate to staff to execute.

Thank you,

Frank Catrambone - Community Development Manager

David Petkau, Director of Community Engagement



If you have any question, please feel free to contact me at 905-717-7631

Thank you

Frank Catrambone

Community Development Manager for Housing | Central District (Toronto, York, and Simcoe)



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Christian Horizons' vision is that people who experience disabilities belong to communities in which their God-given gifts are valued and respected.