

1 March 2026

Re: Support for Indwell in Burlington

Dear Madam Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing in support of the reports brought forward by City of Burlington Community Planning and Legal staff recommending use of municipal land for affordable housing development by Indwell.

I am writing to you as a concerned community member about the growing issue of homelessness in our city. As someone who has worked with social services, I am interested in helping with this issue. I live near Central Park and every day I see more individuals on the streets without a safe place to live and unable to access the services they need. In fact, a few weeks ago I noticed that an individual who was camped out had started a fire only to keep warm. Although I felt bad doing it, I called 911 as the camp was close to the Petro Station where there is a lot of dry brush and trees. This is only one example that I have witnessed. I believe that Indwell's holistic approach to supportive housing is crucial to assisting with Burlington's homelessness issue.

Indwell has a strong track record of working with communities across Southern Ontario to create well-designed, long-term affordable housing buildings. Indwell supports 1,300 people in buildings in Hamilton, Woodstock, Norfolk County, London, Waterloo Region, Mississauga and St. Thomas. Locally, this includes 550 apartments operated by Indwell in Hamilton.

Recent data illustrates the scale of the affordable housing crisis in our community. There are 319 individuals experiencing homelessness in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or other temporary accommodation across Halton Region, according to the 2024 Point-in-Time Count, a 10% increase compared to the 2021 enumeration. Halton Region's community housing waiting list has over 8,000 households. Locally, 45% of the 18,000 renter households in Burlington are paying unaffordable rents, according to the 2021 census. Rents are increasingly out of reach for low- and middle-income households, including people receiving social assistance, retail and service workers, seniors, students, and young families.

In the context of the overwhelming need for affordable housing, I urge you to support the proposal to enter into a long-term land lease with Indwell on 1022-1030 Waterdown Road and to provide funding from the city's Housing Accelerator Fund to support the development of 75 units of deeply affordable housing. I commend Burlington councillors and staff for your leadership in using all the tools at your disposal to address this pressing need in our community.

Thank you for noting my support as you consider this matter.

Regards,

Mary Kay Aird