

Re: Support for Indwell in Burlington

March 08, 2026

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 write to you as a resident of Burlington Ward 2 who is concerned about the housing crisis facing the residents of Burlington. I see, all around Burlington, people who are facing housing crisis. Homelessness is not just in urban centres, it is now right here in Burlington. As I know from my connection with NextDoor Social Space and other non-profits, people face homelessness for a variety of reasons and Indwell's model of supportive housing helps people so that they can be successful living on their own and help with the issues that lead to homelessness. As Jimmy Carter said, "The measure of a society is found in how they treat their weakest and most helpless citizens". Let's continue to make Burlington an amazing city by providing our vulnerable members with affordable and supportive housing through Indwell

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.

Sincerely,



Chris Emmons

