
March 9, 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 write to you as the Chair of Council, at Faith Christian Reformed Church, 2265 Mountainside Dr., Burlington. We are becoming increasingly aware of the growing need in our city for affordable housing as small tent encampments have begun to appear. As a church, we support the mission of Indwell through donations and know this to be a very effective organization providing supportive housing to many in need. In addition, a number of our small group volunteers have supported Indwell by providing meals to their residents on many occasions throughout the past number of years.

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,





Rob Schaafsma
Chair of Council
Faith Christian Reformed Church