





"Advocating for Inclusion in the Greater Fredericton Area"

To Mayor Rogers and Councillors,

Re: November 27, 2023 Council Meeting, NB Housing Corporation Proposal (Off of Charles St.; 30 units)

Inclusion Fredericton is pleased to see that the development of much-needed, affordable housing is being proposed for Fredericton at the November 27th Council Meeting. It is our hope that any new housing built in Fredericton includes affordable, accessible and inclusive housing to achieve the vision of New Brunswick's housing strategy "Housing For All".

A safe neighborhood is a welcoming neighborhood. We understand that many residents are voicing concerns that while they are happy to see additional units for seniors in this proposed development, they do not want to see the inclusion of affordable family units. As advocates for residents of Fredericton with an intellectual or developmental disability, we highlight the key principle in the National Housing Strategy: "Housing policy should be grounded in the principles of inclusion, participation, accountability, and non-discrimination."

We believe that increasing the mixed-income, mixed-density housing supply is an important first step towards creating affordable, inclusive housing opportunities and we ask you to consider the proposal being presented this evening. The addition of 30 units is significant towards addressing the affordable housing crisis in Fredericton.

We ask that you go a step further and implore you to make the affordable housing part of the neighborhood, not set apart from the neighborhood.

Housing inclusivity is when a person's home actively contributes to their full participation in the broader community. Inclusive housing and affordable housing are equally important but distinct. Inclusive housing accounts for the <u>dispersion</u> of affordable units throughout a building and neighborhood. If vulnerable people are clustered together, they are more likely to be stigmatized and excluded. In contrast, if their homes are dispersed throughout a community, they are more likely to be seen simply as a neighbour and to be included.

We appreciate this step forward, but we'd ask that the city work with the Provincial Government to use an inclusive housing lens and encourage a mixed-income approach for this development. The concept of NB Housing incorporating mixed-income housing in their housing portfolio was first introduced in the 2019 Housing Strategy called "A Home for Everyone" ("key





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action 2.1: Expansion of the Social Housing portfolio with the creation of 1, 262 new, affordable mixed income units in partnership with the private and non-profit sectors.").

We are thankful for your work towards increasing housing unit construction in Fredericton.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Silliphant Chairperson, Affordable, Accessible, Dispersed Housing Committee Inclusion Fredericton

Mary Mersereau

President, L'ARCHE Fredericton

Tanya Whitney

Interim Executive Director, Inclusion NB