

October 31, 2022

Mayor Boddy and Council Members
The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Avenue East,
Owen Sound ON
N4K 2H4
mayor@owensound.ca
council@owensound.ca

Dear Mayor Boddy and Members of Owen Sound City Council,

We are pleased to provide you with this letter, in support of the proposed rezoning by Owen Sound Glassworks Cooperative Housing - for 46 acres of 1915 26th Street East, Owen Sound N4K 5N3.

Grey Bruce Health Services (GBHS) is one of the Grey Bruce region's largest employers and like many healthcare organizations across the province and country, we are currently struggling to recruit and retain qualified staff. When we do hire new employees, they often find it hard to secure housing in the area. Our staff are well-paid and yet many house prices are out of reach, and good, affordable, rental units are hard to come by – even though we are now offering to pay a subsidy on rent during the first year of employment for workers coming from out of the region to work here.

Following the Glassworks presentation that was shared at our Board of Directors' meeting on October 26, 2022, our Board and senior management team are confident that this proposal will increase the amount and type of attainable workforce housing that we so desperately need to draw skilled workers to our community.

The types of housing presented – apartments, semi-detached, duplex, and townhouses – are appealing to young working professionals and families alike. The location is within walking distance to public transportation to the Owen Sound Hospital and will allow for short commutes for those with access to their own vehicle.

We strongly believe this is a project that will have a positive impact. Increasing the inventory of new, affordable housing close to the Hospital, will help to distinguish Owen Sound and further enable us to recruit and retain much-needed healthcare professionals. Likewise, these new residents will bring with them healthy disposable incomes, contributing to the local economy.

We understand from the Glassworks presentation, delivered to our Board of Directors by Pat Kelly, that this model has been successful in other communities. We wish her and her team all the very best with the development of this project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Sims', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Sims, President & CEO

cc: Pat Kelly, Glassworks Cooperative - pk@patkelly.co