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August 19, 2025

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Mayor Berry Vrbanovic City of Kitchener949

Dear Mayor Vrbanovic,

On behalf of the Board and the congregation of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, we wish to express our deep support for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's proposed affordable and inclusive housing project for adults with disabilities at Queen Street and Roy Street in Kitchener. This timely and needed initiative is rooted in the values of dignity, community and compassion, and recognizes the critical need for accessible housing solutions that foster independence and belonging for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Kitchener, like many Canadian cities, is facing a growing demand for affordable, supportive housing. As you know, St. Peter's Church has made a similar commitment to create affordable and supportive housing in our downtown neighbourhood. While our project at 49 Queen Street will serve the underhoused, St. Andrew's project has an enhanced goal – to address a need for independent living among a community of adults with development disabilities.

Adults with disabilities are particularly at risk of housing insecurity and social isolation. We see the St. Andrew's project clearly aligning with the City of Kitchener's Housing for All strategy and the Region of Waterloo's Affordable Housing Framework. This housing project will contribute to both the City's and the Region's goals and objectives to help ensure that every resident, regardless of ability, has the opportunity, regardless of income or circumstance, to thrive and to participate fully in community life.

The St. Andrew's initiative will create a safe, welcoming environment where adults with disabilities can access support services, build relationships, live independently and lead fulfilling lives. Thank you to the City of Kitchener for considering this proposal and to all the members, partners and supporters of the St. Andrew's KW Housing Initiative Corporation. We wholly support the vision and leadership of St. Andrew's in creating this much needed infrastructure to house and support adults with disabilities, which will foster dignity, choice and independence for this community.

Sincerely,

Helga McDonald

Chair, Board of Directors, St. Peter's Lutheran

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