



My name is Paula Hopkins Lamarre

I have worked in the N.D.G. community for 17 years now. I am presently The Director of West End and Little Sister daycare. I am here this evening to support the Benny Farm project. In my capacity as Director of this community daycare, I see a great need for this project in it's entirety!

The housing project is a much needed aspect of this project and will help families in this neighborhood greatly. I appreciate the sensitivity and consideration that the architects and urban planners used in making their choices for style, content and natural environment. It is obvious by the marquette and the description of the lay out that a great deal of time and thought went into planning this project. I particularly appreciate favouring an architectural style that respects the community heritage and the fact that apple trees that blossom in the spring will be a feature on the site. I believe that families need homes, environments and communities that are estetic and harmonious in order to live a decent quality of life.

I whole-heartedly support the idea of a recreational centre/community centre that will meet the needs of our families and perhaps will offer space and facilities for our daycare children as a way for us to enhance our program at an affordable price.

I am excited to hear that a daycare is one of the suggestions for this site, either incorporated in the community centre or apart. It is essential that we find viable locations to offer more daycare spots for the children of N.D.G. As the director of West End daycare, myself and my colleagues receive no less than 20 calls a day from families searching for daycare for their children. The need is great! Three years ago I spearheaded the project to open up a second installation to our existing daycare. We opened our doors to 32 more families. We quickly realized that it was a drop in the bucket. More and more young families are moving into this area. I would be prepared to help with the arduous task of establishing a daycare within these facilities because of my years of experience in the field and my recent experience establishing a new centre.

Most important, however, is my support for the relocation of the CLSC onto this site. It will be a far greater asset to the community in this location. I visit the CLSC on a monthly basis because of meetings, workshops or committees that I am involved in at the daycare level.

I always feel that myself and my colleagues are in a hazardous zone when trying to park and access the present building. It is precarious crossing the major Cavendish thoroughfare and being caught on the meridian while attempting to cross over. It is awkward and dangerous at the best of times. In the winter it is treacherous! My colleagues and myself are healthy and able adults, yet we find the present location a real hazard. I can only imagine how challenging this must be for less able individuals.

This is the only unpleasant aspect of visiting the CLSC.

It is truly a vibrant and happening place. There is a great deal of excellent work done by the various individuals and committees. This CLSC deserves a new and better location, to continue reaching out to the families of this community.

I hope that you will consider my point of view and will help make this wonderful Benny Farm project a reality in the near future.

Thank you for your time and Good evening!

Paula Hopkins Lamare