

November 22, 2024

Mayor Boddy and Council Members  
The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound  
808 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue East,  
Owen Sound ON  
N4K 2H4  
[mayor@owensound.ca](mailto:mayor@owensound.ca)  
[council@owensound.ca](mailto:council@owensound.ca)

Dear Mayor Boddy and Members of Owen Sound City Council,

I am writing to confirm Brightshores Health System's (previously Grey Bruce Health Services) continued support for the Glassworks Co-operative and their 300-400 unit Affordable Home Ownership workforce housing development. My predecessor Gary Sims wrote to you in October of 2022 endorsing Glassworks Co-operative.

The housing crisis has only worsened since 2022, further undermining the economic prosperity of Owen Sound, the county and the greater region.

We need housing now that serves incomes in the range that Glassworks is focused on serving. Household incomes of \$35,000 - \$85,000. Glassworks is committed to at least 180 units serving this demographic.

Brightshores 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.

The location of the proposed Glassworks Village at 1915 26th Street East, Owen Sound N4K 5N3 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 our staff can own that is close to the Hospital, will help to distinguish Owen Sound and further enable us to recruit and retain much-needed healthcare professionals. It will increase our municipalities tax base and will bring professionals with healthy disposable incomes that will contribute to our local economy.

I look forward to participating in the meeting with you and the Glassworks Co-op Affordable Homeownership delegation in December.

Thanks for your efforts to address the housing crisis and to ensuring we can better serve the residents of the region keeping them healthy and thriving.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ann M. Ford', is positioned above the printed name.

Ann M. Ford  
President & CEO  
Brightshores Health System