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613-267-6428

Letter of Support for YAK Youth Services

August 26, 2021

Dear Mayor Fenik, Deputy Mayor McPherson, Councillors and Staff,

I am writing today to indicate The Table Community Food Centre's enthusiastic support for YAK Youth Service's proposal to relocate to the municipal building at 1881 Rogers Rd. YAK's proposal to make excellent use of this space offering their own programming and space for other community service agencies to operate in a service "hub" is a progressive, strategic and efficient use of a municipal asset that should be put to use to greatest benefit for the community.

We have had a variety of partnerships with YAK over the years and look forward to building on them in a new location, including potential use space in the allotment gardens on Rogers Rd.

I cannot think of a better use for this space and understand there are, in fact, no other competing proposals at this time.

I urge you to accept the proposal submitted by YAK at your next opportunity and allow the staff to move forward with their planning and delivering their essential programs to the community's youth.

I would be happy to further discuss the appropriateness and important opportunity the proposal presents if you need further explanation.

In the meantime, best regards and thank you for all your efforts in support of Perth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ramsey Hart".

Ramsey Hart

Executive Director

ramsey@thetablefc.org / 613-267-6428 x 8



August 26, 2021

To Whom it may concern,

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lanark County has worked collaboratively with YAK on numerous projects over the years. Our relationship has always been a positive and productive one with creative outcomes for both of our youth centers.

Recently, we have come to learn of the current vision that YAK has for an integrated youth service hub, with a possible service location of 1881 Rogers Rd. We are excited by, and support the vision YAK has for this model, and BBBSLC is certainly open to discussing ways of on-going future collaboration. YAK has our support in developing this endeavor.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Filomena Burelli".

Sandra Filomena Burelli

Sandra Burelli, Executive Director



Lanark County Community Justice

Building Stronger Relationships Through Restorative Practices

Lanark County Community Justice
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Youth Action Kommittee

1 Sherbrooke Street East

Perth, Ontario

K7H1A1

Attention to: Youth Action Kommittee (YAK), Youth Services RE: Letter of Support for Integrated Child and Youth Services Hub

We are writing to you to express our willingness to collaborate with the Youth Action Kommittee (YAK) on the proposed Integrated Child and Youth Services Hub to be located at 1881 Rogers Road.

Lanark County Community Justice (LCCJ) has been working from home since the beginning of the pandemic. We quickly discovered that we were able to provide many of our services remotely. We determined that we only need 2-3 smaller office/storage spaces to store our belongings and files and provide somewhere where we could occasionally meet with clients. One of our longstanding challenges has also been to find free or low cost, accessible, large meeting spaces for volunteer facilitator meetings, board meeting, community justice forums, volunteer appreciation events and volunteer training. We used to pay \$200/month to Family and Children Service of Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville for rent, but when our building was sold, we were not able to fit market rent into our budget and forced to seek an alternative.

After an extensive search for office/storage and meeting space in the town of Perth, we thought we had found the solution to meet our needs by partnering with YAK on the proposed use of 1881 Rogers Road. After discussion with the Town of Perth and YAK, our plan was to occupy 2-3 of the office/storage rooms at 1881 Rogers in the shared space area for a small \$300-\$400 fee paid to YAK for rent and free access to book the larger meeting spaces. We were very saddened to hear that YAK's proposal was not passed by Council and sent back for further information gathering about how other municipalities are supporting their youth centres. What the town will discover is that other municipalities are leading the pack in supporting their local youth centres and that Perth is falling behind.

For decades, child and youth service agencies both large and small have been looking to strengthen inter agency relationships, collaborate, and share space, with the eventual design to share administrative costs such as internet, phone, admin assistance and other. For these reasons, and mostly for our children and youth, this is one such opportunity that should not be missed because of the bottom line in the towns budget. LCCJ fundraises for 35% of their revenue in individual donation, fundraisers and municipalities and everyone wants that money to go into programming and none of it into the expensive escalating rent and overhead costs. For profit landlords do not give a break to charities on rent and utilities. The federal government recognized the need to support businesses and

individuals with the cost of rent during COVID and now they are addressing the escalating costs of housing. It is time for the Town of Perth to do the same for our youth services.

Why should the Town of Perth support an Integrated Child and Youth Service Hub?

✓ For over 20 years LCCJ has regularly collaborated with Youth Centres across Lanark County to deliver restorative justice services and provide restorative practice education and training of both youth centre staff and to the youth themselves. Co-locating these agencies would serve to strengthen that collaboration. For example, last year we provided community justice facilitator training to youth centre staff to equip them to respond to conflict using restorative practices.

✓ It would provide for greater sustainability of our respective agency's services

✓ It would serve to reduce rent and overhead costs and the limited funds could be re-directed to programming for youth

✓ It would provide access to affordable larger meeting spaces and offices to meet with clients, not only for YAK and LCCJ but other health and social service in Perth would be able to use these spaces on an as needed basis

✓ It would provide children and youth greater access to volunteer opportunities, physical activity, such as the skating rink and eventually a basketball court, the Table's Community Garden, Firedaws programming, Conlon Farm etc.

✓ LCCJ would have seamless access to Youth Centre programming and a supportive, youth friendly environment for LCCJ's youth and create further opportunities for meeting community service hour sanctions in a youth friendly environment

✓ Perth can best meet the needs of youth when they are in an accessible location with a broad range of operating hours, engagement of youth across all stages of the Integrated Hub, and emotional and cultural needs are prioritized to create a safe space

✓ Co-locating youth serving agencies will serve to build partnerships and create opportunities for future further collaboration and cost saving measures

Since 1996 YAK has demonstrated a commitment to provide support, opportunities, resources, information and training to the Children and Youth of Perth by bringing youth together in a safe and supportive space, elevate skills and confidence while activating participation in our local community. Accordingly, we support the development of a Child and Youth Integrated Hub that will continue to grow and expand in the years to come to better meet the needs of the children and youth of Perth and create a foundation for enhanced programming and services.

Sincerely,



Joellen McHard, Executive Director, LCCJ



Aisha Toor, Board Chair, LCCJ



33 Lewis Street
Perth ON
K7H 2R4

Re: Letter of Support: Perth and District Community Foundation

The Perth and District Community Foundation supports the move of YAK Youth Services to 1881 Rogers Rd. Rachel Roth, the Executive Director, has informed us of YAK's plan to create a central Child and Youth Service's Hub out of this new proposed location and we are in full support of this and believe it will be beneficial to the Town of Perth. We also agree that this new space will offer more opportunity for youth to engage, for partnerships to develop and local services to collaborate.

We understand that YAK is looking to provide a "one stop shop" for youth to access services in Perth. We appreciate this comprehensive, forward-thinking approach to have multiple agencies housed together under one roof. We have also learned from other jurisdictions that this approach is extremely helpful in stabilizing and supporting youth as they transition into adulthood.

We understand that YAK has reached out to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Open Doors, and Lanark County Community Justice (LCCJ) who are all willing to look for ways to collaborate in this new centre or completely move their headquarters there- as is the case with LCCJ. We also have been informed that 1881 Rogers Rd. also houses with the Table, Firedawgs Youth Initiatives, along with Jesse Swain Fitness. Furthermore, we encourage their plan, once they move in, to reach out to Cornerstone Landing, our local Health Unit and Community Employment Services to see how they also can benefit from this new space and offer their services.

It is with great pleasure that we support YAK's exciting initiative. And we look forward to watching how this new integrated program and services plan has a positive impact on our local community.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Heesen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Ron Heesen
President, Perth and District Community Foundation

cc. Rachel Roth, Executive Director, YAK
Lynn McIntyre, Executive Director, PDCF

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth

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August 30, 2021

Rachel Roth
Executive Director
YAK Youth Services
1 Sherbrooke Street East
Perth, Ontario K7H1A1

RE: In Support of Relocation

Dear Ms. Roth,

I have noted that the strategic plans for both of our organizations share a key strategic priority; to participate in creating a diversified place that offers children and youth a place for a wide range of services in friendly locations. Our language may differ but each organization wants to see a “hub” at which children and youth may participate in pro-social activity that supports community wellness.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth is the accredited child and youth mental health provider in Lanark County. In addition to traditional mental health services, Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth knows the power of community and inclusion has to effect change. We know also the benefits to be achieved from collaborative partnerships with child and youth serving organizations.

We believe there are tremendous potentials that can be realized through partnering with YAK Youth Services. You and I have discussed possibilities of collaboration together in programming that builds upon YAK Youth Services programs to assist in creating communities that are inclusive of marginalized and disadvantaged populations. It is very possible also to provide additional traditional mental service at this new location that was not feasible at the Sherbrooke location.

Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth would be an eager participant at the proposed new Yak Youth Services site. There will be opportunities to partner in service together and hopefully with other organizations that would similarly see the benefits that can be realized. Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth is hopeful to collaborate in programming with YAK Youth Services at this new site.

Best Regards,

Kevin Clouthier, PhD., RP
Executive Director
Open Doors for Lanark Children and Youth