

March 3, 2021

Mayor Henderson and Members of Council:

Please accept this letter as an official request to have the building permit fees waived on Northumberland County Housing Corporation's (NCHC) Elgin Park project. This project will increase NCHC's housing stock by 22 units as it is replacing the outdated 18 units with 40 multi-residential units comprised of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units, thus addressing the broad range of community needs.

NCHC Board and Staff are committed to bringing this project in on budget, but having recently reviewed the project costs we find that Covid 19 has added unanticipated costs to the project. I am sure Council is aware Covid 19 has impacted operating and capital costs due to certain provincial safety requirements. This is true for everything from architectural design to upcoming construction labour. In addition to this, as all industry has experienced in the past year, Covid 19 has significantly increased the cost of materials due to increased labour costs for suppliers and these increases are being passed on to consumers.


NCHC appreciates that development charges are waived through legislation and this supports affordable housing developments across the County. However, NCHC projects provide deeply affordable housing serving those most in need including rent-geared-to-income units. NCHC also strives to exceed minimum requirements for accessible units and sustainability. Additional support from the municipality would greatly assist in achieving these critical project objectives.

Given that Mayor Henderson announced in January that his Number One priority for 2021 is affordable housing, and the fact that Council approved \$250,000. for affordable housing in the 2021 budget I believe waiving the building permit fees will show taxpayers a much needed tangible benefit for the use of a portion of this budget commitment.

While there is still a lot of work to do on the County's 10 year housing waitlist, the NCHC Board and Staff view Elgin Park as an excellent start on increasing our housing stock and appreciate your support for this 2021 project.

Sincerely,

Gil Brocanier – Chair, NCHC Board

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