
To: Dave Howard
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]'Recommendation Report: Housing Brampton.'

As per Brampton's policy to participate in a council meeting, I am submitting a written request to be shared at the meeting 'Recommendation Report: Housing Brampton.' and I give my permission to share this.

Council;

I am unable to attend this meeting in person or via Microsoft teams. Unfortunately I have a conflict and unable to join you today. That said, I would very much like to let council know about our charity and our interest to build in the Brampton.

Homes For Heroes is a registered charity whose mission is to eliminate homelessness among Canada's Veterans. To do so we are building villages of 20 "tiny homes" with a resource center in cities across our country - Villages that will serve as a platform that our Veterans-in-need can use to transition from homelessness back into mainstream society - and then providing them with the counselling, training and resources they will need to be successful on this journey. The design of our Villages is deliberate and is intended to maximize a sense of community, teamwork and peer-to-peer support. This approach was developed in direct consultation with our Canadian Veterans – it is a program developed by Veterans for Veterans.

Premier Doug Ford and Minister Steven Clark have been very supportive of Homes For Heroes and has encouraged us to consider building at least three Veterans' Villages in Ontario. In response, the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing recommended that we consider Brampton, Kingston and Ottawa as municipalities that would benefit from our program as each had an identifiable issue with Veteran homelessness. We have a proven model that is working for our Veteran community and a model that can easily be tailored to a number of different demographics in need of affordable housing. Currently we have a village operating in Calgary, a village in construction for Edmonton, and a village in the planning stages for Kingston.

In order for us to be successful in building we look for support from all three levels of government. For example with our Edmonton build, the City of Edmonton donated the land, the Province donated \$1.2 million and the federal government through CHMC donated 1 million. There after we secured corporate partnership from ATCO, PCL, CP Rail, the Brick and many others, to raise the funds needed to build and operate the facility. The Federal and Provincial supporters are in place for Brampton and we now ask for the City of Brampton support.

Our operation is unique due to the fact that we are partners with Veterans Affairs. As our tenants come into the program a detailed needs assessment is done with our onsite councillor and a Veterans Affairs case worker. A transition plan is then developed for each individual tenant and funding supports are secured for each individual tenant. We look to build in established committees where our tenants can volunteer and begin reconnecting with communities. All services our tenants access are off sight and the majority of these program are offered by Veterans Affairs.

The average cost to a city and a Province for a person experiencing homelessness is \$80,000 per year. With 20 tiny homes we are saving the City and the Province \$1.6 million per year. As the program is a reintegration model, the village see tenants graduate from the program once they have dealt with the issues that got them to the street. This program was developed in consultation with over 200 Veterans. Veterans are not looking for a permanent home and they asked to come into a program, get the help they need, get back on their feet and make room for the next Veteran. In 18 months since we have opened the Calgary village we have had 7 graduates from the program, giving 7 new Veterans the opportunity to enter the program. That is 7 Veterans off the street, back on their feet, working and contributing to the community done with 18 months.

Our ask to council is for you to consider partnering with our charity and donate one acre of land so we can build a village in the great City of Brampton. With this partnership we believe we can prove that our model works and that it can be adapted for other demographics. The use of tiny homes can dramatically decrease to build affordable housing. If a home owner was allowed to place a 300 square foot home on their property for an aging parent or rent it out, this would open up other rental properties and offer a source of revenue for those putting a tiny home on their land. The issue of homelessness is something all of us as Canadians needs to get involved with.

Not All Heroes Have Homes, but together we can end the issue of Veteran homelessness and end the cycle of Veteran homelessness.

I have attached further information on our charity and I thank you all for your time and consideration.

Regards

David Howard
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**They Stood On Guard For You.
Now They Need Your Help!**



Not All Heroes Have Homes



They Stood On Guard For You - Now They Need Your Help!



Canada has always been blessed by a professional military, founded on citizens who were willing to put their lives at risk, to **stand on guard for our country** and, if necessary, to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect our rights and freedoms. The members of our Canadian Armed Forces have served with distinction and are

known to be among the best in the world. After their service many have gone on to assume key leadership roles in business, government and within our communities.

But sometimes military service comes at too high a price.

Physical injuries and mental stress can take a punishing toll, even years after active service has ended. For one-in-four members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the process of being released from their military career and transitioning back into the community can be stressful and complex. Mental health challenges, including post traumatic stress disorder, together with alcohol and drug dependencies borne of physical trauma, can lead to a long, and difficult, pathway to homelessness.

"Homelessness likely affects between 3,000 and 5,000 veterans" in Canada.¹

But through a determined and coordinated effort, and with your help, this is a problem that we can solve.



1. House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs - May 2019



The Homes For Heroes Foundation

About Us

The Homes For Heroes Foundation is a registered national charity developed in response to the growing number of military veterans who are facing crisis as they return to civilian life and find themselves on the path to homelessness.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a caring, innovative and comprehensive **solution to homelessness among our veterans**. We are doing so by:

- building unique and affordable urban villages in major cities across Canada where homeless veterans will be able to successfully transition back into civilian life; and,
- providing the resources, services and training they will need to achieve the goal of living independently in the long term.

Housing

- Villages consisting of 15 to 25 “tiny homes” for veterans.
- Each home will be less than 300 square feet in size, but fully equipped with all the features of a larger home.
- Each Village will also incorporate a central resource centre, a counselling office, a community garden and other amenities.

Transition Services

- Our Social Services Partners and Veterans Affairs will offer individualized counselling and training programs for each veteran.
- **Residency in the Village will be transitional**, with the goal of having them leave the Village and re-enter mainstream society, employed, stable and self-sufficient, likely within one to three years.

Vision

It is our vision that all of Canada's veterans-in-need progress toward a secure and self-sufficient life through access to housing and a robust support system offering stability and dignity.



Together, we can end homelessness among Canada's veterans.



Highlights Of A Homes For Heroes Village

Village Design

Homes in the Village are configured in a “Barracks Format” to facilitate peer-to-peer support. Site geometry is designed to create a sense of openness and permeability throughout the Village, as well as a feeling of connection among its residents. Extensive landscaping will produce a park-like atmosphere. The architectural design of the Village and each home will be visually pleasing and a positive contribution to the community, creating a sense of pride, identity and ownership among the residents.

Our Villages will provide:

- an onsite, full-time support counsellor
- peer-to-peer support programs
- a central amenity building and plaza
- a family suite for visiting family members
- easy access to public transportation
- 24 hour security

Legend

1. Amenity Building
2. Tiny Homes
3. Community Garden
4. Plaza / Canadian Flag
5. Entrance feature





Innovative “Tiny” Homes

“Tiny” homes aren’t just a trendy idea - they are the perfect platform for someone transitioning from living-rough to re-joining mainstream society: a **safe, private, self-contained space** in which to keep their personal belongings and begin the path to recovery within a community of peers.

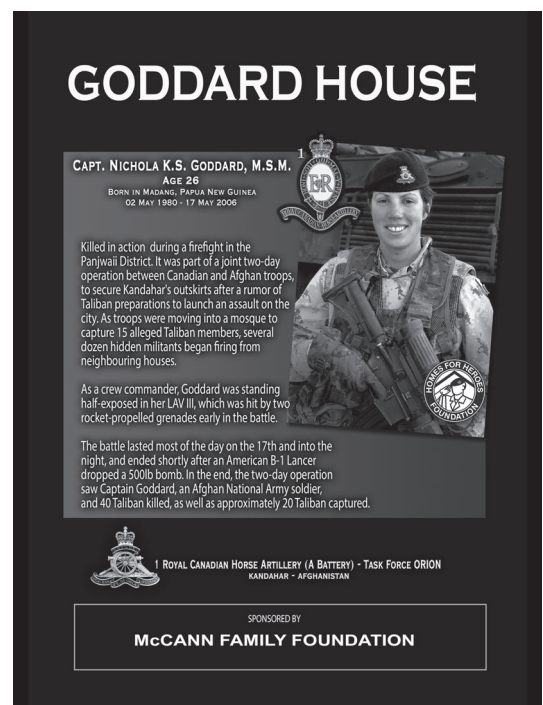
The small, but functional kitchen will include a fridge, oven, sink, built-in storage, and a breakfast bar/work station. The three piece bathroom will feature a shower/bath, toilet, sink and additional storage. Each unit will include basic cable and Wi-Fi.

By design, the tiny home “small footprint” means that less energy is required to operate each residence. In addition, a number of innovations have been introduced to the house plan to **increase energy efficiency** and reduce ongoing operating costs.

Commemoration of Canadian Military Heroes

At Homes For Heroes we want to honour our Canadian Armed Forces fallen in all the Villages we build across Canada. Each home will be named after, and in honour of, one of Canada’s military heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country.

An informative, commemorative plaque will be installed outside each home and will serve as a permanent tribute to our fallen.





The Path To Recovery

Our Program

The goal of our program is to assist veterans with their reintegration into civilian life.

The first step is to provide them with housing - **somewhere to be safe, secure and warm**; a place to keep their personal belongings and take care of their personal needs - a "tiny home" in one of our Villages.



Next we will provide them with the tools they will need to successfully transition back into mainstream society. When a veteran joins a Village, our team will meet with him/her to prepare a detailed needs-analysis and develop a program that will best serve those needs including financial advice, mental health counselling, addictions recovery, family reintegration and employment placement. Support will be provided through one-on-one counselling and group therapy sessions, aided by an on-site peer-support specialist.

Within the Village the veterans will work as a team, providing peer-to-peer support. Their service has already taught them that they are stronger when working as a unit - and they will work together in this unit **to ensure that no one is left behind**.



Impact

Each Village **will provide 5,000 to 9,000 bed-nights per year for veterans experiencing homelessness**. Veterans who are in crisis will have the breathing space and support they need to embark on the path to stability and self-sufficiency.



A Message From Our President

"Sometimes I am asked why I care so much about veterans and homelessness. I was deeply moved by an experience I had when visiting my grandfather in Vancouver. He was a Navy veteran, suffering with PTSD (shell shock, as they had coined it then) and had become an alcoholic. At one point upon returning from the war, he was



President of a multi-billion-dollar company and years later, because of his drinking, he was a security clerk in the same building - a dramatic move from the 30th floor penthouse office to a ground floor building registration clerk.

My family had distanced themselves from him because of some of the terrible things he had done to them growing up, but for some reason I was drawn to him and wanted to get a better understanding of what was happening. What I saw was a broken man who was suffering and had been suffering most of his life because of his service to our country. I knew he wasn't the only one and I began the process of learning more about those who served and continue to serve Canada.

*We interviewed numerous veterans who were in crisis and asked them what they needed the most. Their answers all carried a common theme. Our veterans are proud warriors — proud of their service and proud to be citizens of Canada — **they want a hand-up, not a hand-out. We listened, and we designed our program around meeting their needs.***

We have the opportunity to end homelessness among our veteran population. Men and women who stood on guard for our country are now suffering. Now it's our turn to step up to help in their time of need. The Homes For Heroes program is like no other being offered around the globe. Canada can be a world leader in caring for our veterans in need."

*Dave Howard
Co-Founder and President
Homes For Heroes Foundation*



Breaking the cycle of homelessness among our veterans



For more information please contact:
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