



Letter of Support

City of Saint John

November 28, 2024

Dear Members of City Council,

Hello. My name is Jayme Hall. I am the Co-Executive Director and Founder of Outflow Ministry Inc. Since we opened our homeless shelter in 2014, we've seen the demand for our services grow in ways we never could have imagined. It's heartbreaking, stressful, and frankly, unsustainable.

Here's the reality: many of the people we meet are ready to take the next step in their lives. They've overcome significant challenges, they're ready to work, and they're eager to move forward. But the lack of affordable and supportive housing has left them with nowhere to go.

Rents in our city have skyrocketed, pricing so many people out of the market.

Saint John has spent the last few winters scrambling to open temporary shelter spaces, knowing it's not a real solution. There are ways to better use resources and support people who need homes.

That's why projects like the Sunnyside Tiny Home Community are so critical. With 75 homes and wraparound supports, it offers stability, hope, and a foundation for people to rebuild their lives.

We cannot delay building new and more diverse affordable housing projects. Vulnerable people in Saint John deserve housing that is tailored to their needs.

I strongly urge you to approve the zoning changes needed to get these homes built. Let's move forward and ensure no one is left out in the cold.

Jayme Hall
Co-Executive Director | Outflow Ministry Inc.
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506.658.8050



The Saint John Non Profit Housing Inc.

November 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to share my strong support for the Sunnyside housing project. This is the kind of initiative we need today in Saint John to address the homelessness and housing affordability crisis we are experiencing.

The 75unit Sunnyside Community isn't a stop-gap measure — it's a comprehensive solution that will meet the current needs of the Saint John community. With wraparound supports built in, it will provide residents the stability and tools they need to break out of the multiple challenging cycles they're facing.

I understand some in the community may have concerns, and I trust that United Way will develop mitigation strategies to manage or prevent issues that may cause concerns. We can't address homelessness—or the broader issues it creates—without building more deeply affordable homes. The location is also ideal, with easy access to transit, groceries, and other essentials. It's well-placed to help residents rebuild their lives and achieve their goals while staying connected to a welcoming community.

I encourage everyone to get behind this project.

Sincerely,

Narinder P. Singh, CPA, CMA
General Manager
Saint John Non-Profit Housing Inc.



November 28, 2024

Dear Members of the Planning Advisory Committee,

Please consider this letter in full support of the Sunnyside Tiny Home Community.


Homelessness in Saint John has been at crisis levels for years. We need immediate, lasting solutions. The Sunnyside Tiny Home Community will provide 75 homes with wrap-around support by next winter, addressing a critical gap in our housing stock.




As an organization that builds and finances affordable housing in Saint John and throughout the province, we fully support United Way's effort to build deeply affordable homes. With about 400 people experiencing homelessness and many more at risk of losing their homes, the need is urgent. By my count, we currently have about 75 deeply affordable units slated to open next year—this project would double that number.

Delays to projects like Sunnyside put lives at risk and force the city to rely on costly, unsustainable temporary shelters. We need permanent housing solutions. The City can help by ensuring re-zoning is achieved as quickly as possible to get this project underway.

If you require any further information, please contact me by phone at 506-651-6839 or email at seth@kaleidoscopeimpact.com.

Sincerely,


Seth Asimakos
Co-Founder and CEO
Kaleidoscope Social Impact

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 www.kaleidoscopeimpact.com
 139 Prince Edward St., Saint John, NB
139 rue Prince Edward, Saint-Jean, NB



November 27, 2024

City of Saint John

Dear Members of the Planning Advisory Committee,

Business owners in Saint John are deeply concerned about the growing number of people experiencing homelessness in our city. It's a complex challenge, but as we know in business, practical problems often call for practical solutions. Not much would be considered more practical than building more homes.

The Sunnyside Tiny Home Community, led by United Way, is the kind of solution that is urgently needed at this time. By providing 75 homes with wrap-around support, it addresses the housing shortage while giving people a stable foundation to overcome challenges and live their best lives. This project isn't only about helping those in need—it's about creating a city where everyone can thrive.

When everyone has a safe, affordable home, Saint John becomes a more prosperous and vibrant place. Businesses benefit from a stronger community, more people move here to work, and we all have the opportunity to thrive.

Let's work together to make this happen. I strongly encourage the Planning Advisory Committee to approve the necessary zoning changes to move this important project forward.

Sincerely,

Fraser Wells

Chair

Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

**FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Dalhousie Medicine
New Brunswick**

Dr. Paul Atkinson FRCPC
Professor
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25 November 2024

To: City Clerk's Office
Saint John, New Brunswick

Subject: Support for Zoning Change and building homes– Sunnyside 75-Unit Community

To Whom It May Concern,

As a physician with 30 years of experience, including as Head of Emergency Medicine in Saint John for the past four years, I have seen firsthand how our healthcare system struggles to serve a community increasingly strained by homelessness. Emergency departments are designed to be a safety net, but how do we fulfill that role when we're also the admitting area, the holding area, the primary care provider, and, too often, the place where people come simply because they have nowhere else to go on a cold, Canadian evening?

Homelessness has profound consequences—not just for those who experience it, but for the entire community. It leads to preventable health issues, overwhelms emergency services, and diminishes the quality of care for everyone. In the past four years, the situation in Saint John has escalated to crisis levels. We need to build more homes immediately.

There is clear evidence that supportive housing initiatives can break the cycle of homelessness and the resulting health problems we see; <https://www.canada.ca/en/polar-knowledge/publications/northern-housing-forum-knowledge-products/creating-supportive-housing.html>

The proposed Sunnyside 75-unit community, with its integrated wraparound support services, is a critical part of the solution. It offers not just housing but the stability and resources people need to rebuild their lives. Every delay in this project compounds the suffering of those who are unhoused and intensifies the pressure on our healthcare system in Saint John. We must do everything possible to ensure these homes are built and ready for occupancy before next winter.

I fully endorse the proposed zoning change to make this project a reality. It is essential for the health of our community and the sustainability of our healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Atkinson MB MA FRCPC(EM)



Fernhill Cemetery Company

(Incorporated 1848 • Crematorium 1939)

November 27, 2024

City of Saint John
15 Market Square
Saint John, NB
E2L 4L1

Attention City Clerk

By email to cityclerk@saintjohn.ca

Greetings through you Mr. Clerk to the Mayor and Councillors.

This letter is an initial public comment from the Fernhill Cemetery Company on the application for rezoning and Municipal Plan amendments proposed for Sunnyside Avenue.

Fernhill has not adopted a position at this time insofar as any possible objection or support on the proposal but reserves its right to do so throughout the process. We also have questions that are important to have answers to.

Some of those questions include, yet are not limited to:

1. What measures will be implemented to address any migration and set up of any tent community as has occurred around the city and as been the case around the Fredericton 12 Neighbours community?
2. What is the plan for snow management in such a tight footprint? Will there be a physical barrier along the Fernhill property?
3. What measures will be implemented to ensure that litter etc. does not make its way into Fernhill?
4. If security concerns manifest themselves in relation to the need to protect Fernhill property and the burial sites as a result of the development proposal will the Sunnyside Community managers take responsibility for addressing same?



Fernhill Cemetery Company

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5. We understand the current Municipal Plan definition of Park and Natural Areas highlights that **“Lands in the City designated Park and Natural Areas are generally not appropriate for any form of development...”**

The supporting Policy LU-113 goes on to say “Council intends that the Park and Natural Areas designation will permit a range of conservation and appropriate recreational land uses permitted in the City’s major regional and community parks, environmentally sensitive or significant areas, lands that are located adjacent to watercourses, lands adjacent to the City’s coastlines, estuarine areas, significant archaeological and geological sites, **historic sites, designated heritage places and cemeteries.**”

Why would it be appropriate to vary the above provisions at this time and for this purpose given likely more promising locations?

Fernhill’s contiguous neighbour the Shaarei Zedek cemetery shares the interest and concerns that have been expressed herein.

In closing we look forward to hearing much more information and answers to questions as we follow this matter and consider what if any position the Fernhill Cemetery Company may take.

We thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Elaine Daley
President
Fernhill Cemetery

cc. Members of the Fernhill Cemetery Board.
cc Members of the Shaarei-Zedek Cemetery Board