



Community and Health Services
Housing Services

Memorandum

TO: Members of Council
FROM: Adelina Urbanski,
Commissioner, Community and Health Services
DATE: March 26, 2015
RE: **Belinda's Place Update**

The need for a women's only facility was first brought to Council's attention in 2010, and in 2013, after a due diligence, design, and public consultation period, a construction contract was awarded to turn this need into a reality. Construction began in the summer of 2013.

Located at 16580 Yonge Street, at the corner of Yonge Street and Sawmill Valley Road, Belinda's Place, once complete, will be a 3 storey building featuring:

- 28 emergency housing beds and nine transitional units (including three accessible units)
- Common dining area, commercial kitchen, lounge and computer training area
- Office, counselling, program and meeting space
- 24/7 support

Housing York will own and maintain the building. Daily operations and maintenance will be managed by The Salvation Army by way of an Emergency Housing Operating and Facility Agreement established in 2014.

Construction progress

The project is being constructed on land donated by the Society of Friends (Quakers) to the Town of Newmarket, and leased by the Region. The tight development site contains archaeological remnants of a Quaker meeting house, and is bounded by a historic cemetery to the west. Services of an archaeologist have been retained since the initial due diligence phase and have been required during construction.

Adjustments to the design were made during construction in order to best address operational and program requirements. These changes include increased accessibility

features, common area functionality, and safety and security upgrades. The extreme below-average temperatures throughout the past two winters have had a significant impact to the construction process. Due to the construction stage of Belinda's Place during both winters and the design adjustments, additional construction time has been required.

Timelines and budget

Operating and capital costs are included in the approved 2015 Community and Health Services budget. It is anticipated that project costs will be within the approved capital budget.

It is now anticipated that Belinda's Place will be ready for The Salvation Army to begin set-up in September 2015 with operations beginning as early as one month following.

On March 27, 2014 Council requested a report back prior to December 31, 2015 on the status of the program operations at Belinda's Place. This report will now be brought forward to Council within The Salvation Army's first full year of operating Belinda's Place. The current Emergency Housing Operating and Facility Agreement with The Salvation Army will be amended to reflect the revised dates.

The Salvation Army will continue to work with staff on preparations to operate Belinda's Place. This includes the development of programs, policies and procedures that will support York Region's vision for homelessness services for a better coordinated and integrated service delivery model to prevent and address homelessness.

Adelina Urbanski
Commissioner, Community and Health Services

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