



Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation • www.ccohousing.org

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Mayor Jim Watson
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
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December 15, 2011


Mayor Watson,

Just over one year ago you led Council on a courageous decision to take advantage of the provincial upload to create a fund that will support new affordable housing.

Following through on this election commitment showed that, despite the budget pressures the City faces, you and your Council understand the vital link between affordable housing and the economic health of our city.

We now have another opportunity for a bold vision: using Section 37 of the Planning Act to increase the size of that housing fund.

Almost all new high-rise development in Ottawa is condominium ownership and almost none of it is accessible to low and modest income people: intensification and zoning increases have a direct impact on housing affordability and the gentrification of modest income neighbourhoods.

The City should move forward to implement Section 37, and half of the value of all community benefits should be set aside for affordable housing development.

This proposal allows the City to continue directing resources to the creation of new affordable housing without putting further pressure on an already strained budget.

I encourage you to continue the initiative you started in your election campaign, the initiative so readily adopted by City Council: keep expanding the City's resources for new affordable housing development.

Sincerely,


Ray Sullivan
Executive Director

cc. Councillor Peter Hume