

July 24, 2017

Mr. Rob Horne  
Chief Administrative Officer  
City of Stratford  
PO Box 818  
Stratford, ON N5A 6W1

Dear Mr. Horne,

**Re: City of Stratford Grand Trunk Community Hub**

On behalf of the University of Waterloo, I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment to enter into formal discussions toward the creation of the City of Stratford Grand Trunk Community Hub.

On many previous occasions, I have expressed my continued support for the University's very successful Stratford Campus for Digital Media. Year after year, we see strong enrollment growth in both our undergraduate and graduate degree programs. This has now caused us to move forward in planning for additional campus growth in Stratford, and we are benefitting from our collaboration with the City of Stratford and their master planning process.

An important element for the Stratford Campus is the creation of a Student Life Centre. One of the University's top priorities is the physical and mental well-being of our students and staff. Consequently, the creation of a Grand Trunk Community Hub, which would include a new YMCA, provides an ideal opportunity for us to incorporate a Student Life Centre as well, and to access the many planned facilities and programs.

We have already accomplished considerable pre-planning with the City of Stratford. The preferred location for the Grand Trunk Community Hub is also an ideal proposition, being located on the same block as our existing campus, and mere feet from our doors.

We are now embarking on detailed discussions around formalizing our commitment to the Hub. These discussions include dedicated and shared spaces, capital funding, and the potential introduction of student fees for facility access as well as Stratford public transit. A keystone of our interest also lies in the opportunity for inclusion of our staff and students into the broader Stratford community, with the Hub being enjoyed by a wide variety of people together.

We look forward to making the Grand Trunk Community Hub a reality. With the support of senior government, we can readily achieve this goal.

Yours truly,



Feridun Hamdullahpur  
President and Vice-Chancellor





Stratford-Perth Family YMCA  
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July 12, 2017

Rob Horne  
Chief Administrative Officer  
City of Stratford PO Box 818  
Stratford ON N5A 6W1

Dear Mr. Horne:

Re: Grand Trunk Community Hub

On behalf of the Stratford-Perth Family YMCA, I am pleased to provide this letter of commitment to enter into a formal partnership in the creation of the Grand Trunk Community Hub with, and in the City of Stratford.

The concept of the co-location of programs and services is critical for our services to remain affordable to all. Having the Stratford Lakeside Active Adults, the University of Waterloo Student Life Centre and the YMCA together, creates the synergy that provides for truly inclusive services for the entire population. These three entities attract a broad spectrum of community members, including children, youth and students, families and older adults. This model enables collaboration amongst these service providers to involve those most vulnerable to economic conditions especially youth and young families, as they look to become full members of their community.

These partners have come together to begin the process of creating something unique, but also something very relevant and impactful for our community. A new and expanded capacity to provide much needed child care spaces to be offered 24 hours a day to address issues from our manufacturing sector will support economic expansion and growth. The financial arrangement for this project creates solid ground for sustainability in such a way that the community truly benefits.

The YMCA has been serving the Stratford community for almost 150 years and it is our mission to provide services to those who need community connection to prevent social isolation...you might say it is part of our DNA. The current YMCA sits on land donated by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1904. Our YMCA was an original Railway YMCA providing services such as reading rooms, first aid training (given the dangerous working conditions on the railroad), housing, baths, and physical and social recreation to railway workers.

We find ourselves with an opportunity to work with additional partners to bring much needed amenities that will cater to all ages and stages, income levels, a variety of interests and most importantly in the core of our community, for all to enjoy. The downtown location within the commercial heart of Stratford with parking, transit, restaurants, world-class theatre and shopping all adjacent to this location is easily accessible to all community residents.

The YMCA will be embarking on a capital campaign to contribute to this project and we have been in discussions with each of the partners to plan a practical, inclusive, relevant and sustainable community hub that will build a healthier community. We now turn to government support to make this community hub a reality.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mimi Price'.

Mimi Price  
Chief Executive Officer

Building healthy  
communities