

Dear Ms. Bedioui,

Please accept this copy of a letter (below) that I sent to Donna Skelly, of the Heritage Committee for the meeting on Tuesday May 31, 2016 at 9:30 am regarding Native Affordable Housing vs. the Anglican Rectory building.

Thank you very much,

Lyn Folkes

----- Original Message -----

From: Lyn Folkes <

To: "donna.skelly" <donna.skelly@hamilton.ca>

Date: May 30, 2016 at 11:45 AM

Subject: Rectory vs. Affordable Housing

Dear Ms. Skelly,

Being on the Heritage Committee, I thought I would send you this opinion on the 'Rectory vs. Affordable Housing' issue. Could you please share the following letter with those who make the decisions. Thank you.

May 30, 2016/ 11:30 am

To Whom It Concerns,

I am neither Native nor Anglican, but I did learn from religious people throughout my life that a 'person' is always more important than a 'building.' And so, this should be a simple decision. Put yourselves in the shoes of those who were separated from their families as innocent young children -- you could never imagine the ache they must still be feeling.

The Anglican church is guilty of causing horrible suffering to natives who are still living here. So, for those who are still troubled by their painful past, how is designating this Anglican rectory as a special 'Heritage Building' different from honouring a concentration camp near a neighbourhood of Jewish people? Furthermore, why would any Anglican who was truly following the word of their own religion, want to cause continued suffering to these poor people?

With the recent apologies to aboriginal nations from our governments in the media, should we not follow through and show those quietly suffering that we really do care, and that what the Anglican church did was a real tragedy? Whether Anglicans thought they were doing the right thing or not, we now understand that it was a terrible

mistake and the sacrifice of this building could help to make amends with a community trying to heal from unimaginably horrifying memories. We owe these people a real and lasting apology.

We must listen to those that experience this kind of pain -- and learn from them -- because we can never really understand what they are feeling. We could be discussing any group of people and any other building, the specifics don't really matter in this situation. If you were one of those abused children, would you want to witness a constant reminder of your abuse being honoured in your community? Anglicans should certainly understand that this is a thoughtless and harmful idea.

Listen to your heart, sympathize and do what you know is right. Bring some well-being back to our community and let the building go. Religion is something that is carried from one generation to another by passing down the necessary knowledge. If all Anglican buildings disappeared, the religion would likely carry on. No matter how important that building is to some, healing fellow Canadians from such a damaging, festering wound is far more important -- and it always will be.

Sincerely, Lyn Folkes

Ward 8, Hamilton