

Dear Members of the Public Works Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed by-law to permanently close the portion of road allowance abutting 95 Dundurn Street South. This action is a critical step in enabling the Dundurn Indigenous Student Housing project, a visionary development that stands to benefit Hamilton in numerous ways.

Project benefits and community impact:

- **Addressing Indigenous student housing needs:** The project will provide at least 30 accessible beds in various unit formats, supporting Indigenous learners pursuing post-secondary education at Mohawk College and McMaster University
- **Accessibility and inclusivity:** The design includes barrier-free units and shared spaces—such as an amenity rooftop terrace overlooking Jackson Park—to foster social engagement and intergenerational connection
- **Community-building and partnerships:** Developed by Invizij in collaboration with Indigenous engagement specialists like SpruceLab Inc, the project has been shaped by input from students, Indigenous support staff, and local residents
- **Strategic location advantages:** The site was chosen for its convenient transit access and proximity to amenities like grocery stores, easing day-to-day life for student residents

Why closing the road allowance matters

- It creates the necessary contiguous land parcel, eliminating a public road barrier to construction of safe, accessible housing.
- The closure aligns with the City's procedure for facilitating community-oriented land use changes

Conclusion

By approving this by-law, the Committee will help realize a forward-thinking housing initiative that uplifts Indigenous students, strengthens community ties, and advances Hamilton's long-term goals of equitable and inclusive urban development. I respectfully urge and fully support Council's decision to permanently close this portion of the road allowance.

Thank you for considering my comments. I am happy to provide further input and look forward to this project's success.

Sincerely,
Peter Vander Klippe

Confidential contact details for City record keeping only:

