

Comments on Great Near Campus Neighbourhood Strategy – Terms of Reference.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

With new council members I look forward to new and enlightened thinking.

As a past resident and current landlord in the Great Near Campus Neighbourhood, I was extremely disappointed that none of my written or verbal comments and concerns have been addressed in these revised Terms of Reference from the April 1, 2015 Public Information Meeting.

My main concerns are:

- 1) Perceived culture of discrimination against students within the City of London
- 2) Acknowledgement to the fact that the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) considers Students as a proxy for the code protected grounds for Age and also Accommodation (housing) as a Protected Social Area.
- 3) Lack of consultation and consideration with students, landlords, realty groups such as London Property Managers Association, and London & St Thomas Realty Association.

Culture of Discrimination

I believe a number of City of London policies target, thus discriminate against Students. An example of this is the Great Near Campus Neighbourhood Strategy. This strategy was created to limit the perceived effects of Students in the section of London surrounding Western U and Fanshawe College.

An example of the culture of discrimination was during the creation of this original strategy there were inappropriate and discriminatory presentations hosted by the City of London utilizing non-complimentary photos of students from the United States to inappropriately represent students from London in a negative light, thus creating a potentially poisoned environment.

I also feel the City of London Town and Gown Committee in the past has allowed their meetings to have a poisoned environment and be very discriminatory towards Students.

Ontario Human Rights Commission

The Ontario Human Rights Commission states that they consider Students as a proxy for the code protected grounds for Age and the Protected Social Area for Accommodation. As we proceed in the planning of the for the Great Near Campus

Neighbourhood Strategy we must be careful not to discriminate either directly, indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally against students. An example of this would be we cannot change definitions of Dwelling Unit or Lodging House to discriminate or limit student population within the community. To quote Barbara Hall, Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission " We don't get to approve who buys the house across the street from us, we don't get to choose our neighbours. We don't have the right to discriminate".

The Ontario Human Rights Code also states that every person has a right to equal treatment with respect to the occupancy of accommodation without discrimination because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability or the receipt of public assistance.

To make this a truly Great Near Campus Neighbourhood Strategy we must both legally and morally view all of our decisions through the lens of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Lack of Consultation

The April 29th Terms of Reference still is not committing to consultation with Landlords, Landlord organizations, Realty Groups or students specifically.

This Great Neighbourhoods Strategy Review process was initiated when the students were preparing for exams and there was no effort made for their consultation. Students are one of the most potentially important and potentially affected groups to be consulted by this review.

Landlords were not sent out Draft Terms of Reference as landowner groups were. The City of London would have a fairly comprehensive listing for all the landlords in this area but little effort has been extended to them for consultation, and they are not listed as a group to be consulted.

In closing for this to a truly Great strategy we must actively consult with all stakeholders, or our efforts will fall short in attaining the goals of all of the community. Let us remember as we precede this process this that any By-Laws or Policies Strategies must be free from discrimination that affect Students either directly or indirectly.

Thank you

Dan Schaefer