



October 2017

Dear Erlton Community Association Member,

Since 1997 Inn from the Cold has been serving vulnerable Calgarians through the provision of emergency shelter, food and fellowship. Since the first Community Inn was held in 1997, we have diligently refined our programs, practices and focus to address the unique needs and circumstances of vulnerable children and families. We have built our reputation and service to community on the evidence and experience gained through sheltering, supporting, and housing thousands of vulnerable children and families over the past two decades. Our vision is to build a community where no child or family is homeless by offering shelter, sanctuary and healing to assist homeless children and their families achieve independence.

As a community based organization we believe working with and within community is the right setting to support children and families as they journey from housing crisis to stability. Currently, our emergency shelter is located in the Beltline area on 11th Ave. SE. The location does not provide for child-centric activities, nor is it ideal to provide a safe and nurturing environment to children. the safety of children.

Over the past few months, we have been in discussions with the Calgary Board of Education, as well as your Community Association with respect to the former Erlton Elementary School situated at 28th Ave SW. We are considering this site for a possible relocation of our operations to be able to support the children and families we serve in a more favourable environment in community. The proposed 'New Inn', as we're currently calling it, would be a 50,000 sq.ft. purpose-built Family Resource Centre that could offer emergency and short-term supportive housing, indoor and outdoor community spaces, as well as programming for children and parents with opportunities for robust community programming.

The New Inn would provide children and families access to emergency shelter and short term assisted living. We have not begun any design work for the New Inn, however, we can assure you that we would pay careful attention to the location of administrative versus residential spaces as well as the aesthetics and needs of the community in our planning. For example, location of services such as administration, meeting spaces and communal kitchen space as well as laundry would ideally be situated on the east side of the building, along MacLeod Trail. Onsite parking would be off the lane with residential accommodations at the far west end of the site next to the existing residential area.


This location is ideal for a Family Support Centre such as the New Inn. It provides the families access to amenities, employment opportunities, public transportation, and is on the periphery of a residential community, outside of the busy downtown core where our emergency shelter currently operates. The site would be enormously beneficial with respect to reintegrating vulnerable children and families back into community after a short episode of homelessness.

Inn from the Cold is a registered charity working collaboratively with Calgary's Homeless-Serving System of Care and community partners to end child and family homelessness. Our programs are designed to support healthy families and strong communities, and to prevent and end family homelessness through supporting the reintegration of vulnerable families into community.

As we continue to explore the possibility of moving our family-shelter and services into the Erlton community, we look forward to working with you to design a building that reflects your community's planning guidelines, aesthetics and architectural design parameters. With your input and support, we believe we can build something you will feel proud to have in your community because our goal is to ensure that your community is enriched by our presence and that we become welcome and integrated neighbours within Erlton.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to explore the possibilities and your support in our vision to build a community where no child or family is homeless.

Sincerely,



Abe Brown, Executive Director
Inn from the Cold