

December 4, 2009

Sally Luce
Vice Chair
Friends of Churchill Seniors

Dear Sally

Thank you for accepting our invitation to speak to the Dovercourt Recreation Association (Dovercourt) Board of Directors about your concerns regarding the proposal for an alternative service delivery approach for the Churchill Seniors' Centre. Your thoughtful presentation helped us to further our understanding of the Centre's programs and its clientele.

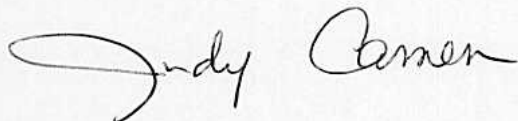
The Dovercourt Board, Staff and Volunteers are proud of the high rates of client satisfaction we have achieved while delivering recreation services to residents of Kitchissippi ward over the past twenty years. We remain confident that this service delivery model could be replicated at the Churchill Seniors' Centre with great success, but we also understand that the proposal has left many clients of the Centre concerned and anxious over possible impacts on the culture and/or services of the Centre. We also appreciate the renewed engagement by Churchill Seniors' Centre participants, which is aimed at strengthening the Centre's programs and operation. It is for these reasons that the Dovercourt Board has decided to withdraw its proposal for the Churchill Seniors' Centre.

The mission of Dovercourt is to "enrich the lives of people in our community". We pride ourselves on being an organization that works with stakeholders for the good of both Kitchissippi and our broader community. We are always seeking natural partners in our community to ensure all segments of our population have access to high quality, creative, educational, recreational, fitness, social and leisure opportunities – irrespective of where they are offered. Our partnerships include the Odawa Native Friendship Centre and the Carlington Community Health Centre. These relationships have been mutually advantageous with the ultimate beneficiary being the members of our community.

Dovercourt's mission also includes "contributing to the development of a healthy community"; we believe our programs encourage community members to be active and involved which is essential to achieving that mission. Dovercourt's proposal stemmed from the recognition that our community does not have sufficient recreation space or sufficient seniors' programs to adequately service this growing segment of the population. We hope that once the "Friends of Churchill Seniors" are officially established we can continue our dialogue and explore opportunities for partnership for the benefit of the senior population, as we believe we do have commonalities in both our goals and the populations we serve. Our current partnerships are not exclusive to programming but also include identifying gaps in services, working together on advocacy, marketing and communications and sharing best practices.

We look forward to a cooperative working relationship in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Cameron". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Judy Cameron
President, Dovercourt Recreation Association

cc: John Rapp, Executive Director, Dovercourt Recreation Association
Dovercourt Recreation Association Board of Directors
Christine Leadman, Councillor, City of Ottawa
Dan Chenier, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Ottawa.