

August 19, 2014

Dear Mayor and Members of London City Council,

On behalf of Pillar Nonprofit Network, we are writing with enthusiastic support for a proposal by Fanshawe College to purchase and renovate the historic Kingsmill's building in Downtown London. We believe that granting the College's request to the City for additional funding would be a sound and forward-thinking investment in downtown revitalization and the future of London.

As a new building owner in the Downtown, Pillar looks forward to launching its much-anticipated Social Innovation Shared Space, where Fanshawe students will represent a key stakeholder group in sparking social innovation and change in our community. As such, we implore you to please consider and envision the collaborative possibilities for generating new ideas and positive change for London.

Further, the Fanshawe proposal has the support of business, nonprofits and government, which demonstrates its potential for strong cross-sector partnership. Social innovation requires the next generation of leaders, and all three sectors, to solve some of our most wicked and persistent problems, and having the students in the downtown core is critical to its success.

As an organization that recently undertook extensive and exhaustive research to find a suitable building to meet its own needs for the Social Innovation Shared Space, we know firsthand the due diligence process and investment that goes into finding the right building. Therefore, we are confident Fanshawe College put forward its comprehensive plan for the Kingsmill's building, as the best option based on the College's extensive and exhaustive due diligence process.

It is also important to acknowledge that there is a cost to building a sound business plan, reviewing the building's suitability and creating a design and costing structure that will suit the needs of the programs to be part of this building. Also, Fanshawe has an *immediate* need for expanding, and the longer it has to wait to get started - the more it will cost the College and our community.

It is evident that Fanshawe College is investing significantly in the vision for Kingmill's and we ask you to please support this pivotal decision in London's history. The Kingsmill's building is a London icon and having the innovation of students who are gaining knowledge and a connection to downtown will continue a legacy for which you can be proud.

For those considering this matter, please know that a sign of a strong and fearless leader is one who gains additional information and changes his/her mind based on new learning and significant public support, which is evident in the case of this important project.

As fellow stakeholders in the future success of our downtown district, we would be happy to discuss this matter with you. Please feel free to contact either of us at your convenience.

Warm regards,



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cc:// Pillar Board of Directors