
GENERATIONS: A VISION FOR INTERGENERATIONAL CARE IN RENFREW COUNTY

Proposal

The County of Renfrew is proud to propose an initiative called "Generations" a transformative project addressing the evolving needs of our community by creating a seniors' campus of care with integrated child-care spaces. This visionary development aims to utilize the available green spaces at Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew and Miramichi Lodge in Pembroke – two long-term care facilities owned and operated by the County of Renfrew – to better serve seniors and families.

Why: Building a Vibrant, Inclusive Community

At the County of Renfrew, we believe in creating a community where our seniors can age with dignity and purpose and where families thrive together in vibrant, supportive environments. "Generations" represents our commitment to bridging gaps in care, housing, and connection – building a future where intergenerational bonds flourish and no one is left behind.

Critical Need

Ontario's aging population is rapidly increasing, with seniors requiring affordable and accessible housing that meets their health and social needs. Across Renfrew County, as in much of Ontario, there is a significant gap in seniors' care for those whose needs do not meet the threshold for priority long-term care placement but who still require support to maintain independent living.

A recent study conducted for the Renfrew County Seniors Housing Strategy confirms that many seniors face a gap in care: necessary support services are either unavailable or financially prohibitive. This situation highlights an urgent need for innovative solutions to address these unmet needs.

Solution: A Campus of Care

Seniors' supportive housing is the missing piece in the continuum of care between independent living and long-term care placement. At an average cost of \$62 per day – compared to \$200 per day for long-term care – supportive housing offers a cost-effective and high-quality solution that enables seniors to maintain their quality of life.

The "Generations" initiative will develop the housing stock critical to bridging this gap. These settings will provide affordable, supportive housing options alongside medical, therapeutic, and social services tailored to seniors. Additionally, the project will incorporate licensed child-care spaces and community spaces to foster intergenerational engagement, creating a vibrant and inclusive community.

Alignment with Provincial Priorities

The "Generations" initiative aligns seamlessly with Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan and Aging Strategy by addressing two critical provincial priorities: affordable housing and aging in place. This campus of care model also supports innovative Ministry initiatives such as the Community Access to Long-Term Care Program, which provides seniors living at home with access to LTC services like personal care and clinical support. The potential for the addition of an on-campus Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) in light of the recent announcement to fund an additional 100 SALCs in Ontario also speaks the timeliness of pursuing a campus of care build.

Leveraging Existing Resources

Both Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge are situated on properties with ample green space, making them ideal locations for this expansion. These sites are well-integrated within their respective communities, offering accessible and central locations for seniors and families.

By utilizing these County-owned resources effectively, "Generations" seeks to maximize the potential of these spaces while addressing critical community needs. The resulting campuses will:

- Provide transitional housing for seniors in need of affordable, supportive environments.
- Offer licensed child-care facilities to support working families and assist in health human resource recruitment and retention.
- Create intergenerational programming that fosters meaningful connections between seniors and children.

Benefits

- For Seniors: Access to transitional housing, integrated care services, and community engagement opportunities that reduce isolation and enhance quality of life.
- For Families: Convenient, high-quality childcare and opportunities to connect with and support loved ones within the same community space.
- For the Economy: Construction and operation activities will stimulate local economic growth.
- For Sustainability: Efficient use of existing County-owned lands ensures environmentally and financially responsible development.

The Ask: Investing in our Community

To kickstart this vision, the County of Renfrew is requesting an initial investment of \$6 million from the Province of Ontario to begin constructing seniors' transitional housing at Bonnechere Manor. This shovel-ready project represents a vital first step in realizing the "Generations" initiative, demonstrating the County's readiness to address the urgent needs of its aging population while fostering intergenerational connections.

To further support the development of affordable and attainable housing, the County of Renfrew is reviewing the creation of a Municipal Services Corporation. This corporation would focus on the construction of affordable housing solutions, including units for seniors and families.

With "Generations" the County of Renfrew aims to lead the way in creating a vibrant, inclusive community where seniors and families can thrive together. We invite the Province to join us in bringing this transformative vision to life.

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What Could the Project Look Like



Rendering I



Rendering II



Rendering III



Rendering IV