

From: REST Centre Exec. D.Koyi <dagma.koyi@restcentres.org>
Sent: October 25, 2021 9:58 AM
To: Daphna Nussbaum <daphna@paeh.ca>
Cc: Dhindsa, Anuneet <anuneet.dhindsa@peelregion.ca>
Subject: Re: Delegation Submission

RECEIVED
October 25, 2021
REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

CAUTION: EXTERNAL MAIL. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS YOU DO NOT TRUST.

Hello Anuneet,

Thank you for your email.

Please find my presentation attached as well as letters of support for submission.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____



YMCA of Greater Toronto
55 City Centre Drive Suite 100,
Mississauga, Ontario L5B 1M3
Phone: 905-276-9322
Email: www.ymcagta.org

January 14, 2021.

To whom it may concern;

Re: The REST Centre

My name is Alicia Wilson and I am a Youth in Transition Worker in the YMCA's Youth in Transition (YIT) Program. The YIT Program was developed to support youth transitioning out of CAS care. As a Youth in Transition Worker it is my job to support youth with past or present CAS involvement by meeting them where they are, and helping them work towards their personal goals.

In December of 2014 a study revealed that black children and youth make up 8.2 per cent of the population in Peel, but account for 41 per cent of children and youth in care. The Black Youth in Transition Worker position was implemented to take a culturally sensitive approach to address the disproportionate overrepresentation of black children and youth in CAS care. While we have made incredible strides, the work we do is not possible without organizations like The REST Centre.

Stable housing is by far the most pressing concern of young people in or exiting CAS care and an on-going crisis in Peel. Shelter is a basic and fundamental need. There are many barriers youth face when they are trying to secure a safe place to live. Being black, and male in particular, poses an additional set of unique challenges when trying to secure housing.

The REST Centre takes a holistic approach to housing support, specifically, their Bridge of Hope (BOH) Program. The BOH Program is an alternative to the emergency shelter and helps provide youth with permanent housing solutions by connecting them to host families in the community. From one-on-one assistance and help navigating the rental/housing process, to connecting clients with programs and services, The REST Centre provides individually tailored service to their clients. The team helps to instill hope in situations that can seem hopeless for our youth. When I refer a young person to REST, I have the upmost confidence that they will receive unwavering support and leave better off than when they came. The REST Centre is an esteemed community partner of the YMCA of Greater Toronto and I look forward to working collaboratively in 2021 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Alicia Wilson,
Youth in Transition Worker

YMCA of Greater Toronto, YMCA Mississauga Employment & Community
55 City Centre Drive Suite 100, Mississauga, Ontario L5B 1M3
T: 905 276-9322 E: alicia.wilson@ymcagta.org

*Building healthy
communities*



January 19, 2021

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to show and voice our support for the R.E.S.T. (Restoration and Empowerment for Social Transition) Organization. Our team, Adolescent Success and Permanency Planning at Peel Children’s Aid has utilized The Bridge of Hope Program, as well as other transitional supports; groceries, starter kits, and rent subsidy are all examples of what our youth have accessed.

The youth we work with identify finding stable, affordable housing as a barrier to live independently. Through this program, our youth are having improved connections, by receiving caseworker support to engage with landlords. COVID-19 has highlighted the disproportionate disparities that Black youth experienced in the community prior to the pandemic. R.E.S.T.’s response to addressing the service gaps that exist in the community for Black youth has helped them attain positive outcomes.

Our youth have said...

“They called her quickly and were very nice on the phone.”

“They were helpful.”

“Thank you for the stuff you brought we really appreciate it.”

“They gave me blankets, household items, food, all stuff I needed, I am very thankful.”

Also some feedback from the staff...

“The extra care packages, especially food have been very helpful. Continued housing support helpful and needed.”

“Their quick response and positive attitude toward my youth has been great.”

“They seem to be able to offer more to our black youth.” “I would agree as well that my radicalized youth have been the ones to have success with this program.”

25 Capston Drive
Mississauga, ON L5W 0H3
peelcas.org

t. 905 363 6131
f. 905 363 6133
toll-free. 888 700 0996



Having a program like The Bridge of Hope, which supports the interaction between landlord and the young person, is both valuable and impactful.

Thank you R.E.S.T, your organization is highly valued in the Region of Peel.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alicia Boothe".

Alicia Boothe
Team Lead
Adolescences and Independence Team
Permanency Branch



365 Father Tobin Road
Brampton, Ontario L6R 0R4
Telephone: 905-793-5451
Fax: 905-793-9633

July 28, 2021

To Whom It May Concern

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of support for REST Centre in appreciation of their services to our students who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

My name is Valda Keldo-McDonald and I work for the Peel District School Board, at Louise Arbour Secondary School (LASS) as a Guidance Counsellor. As a guidance counsellor, I truly believe in the work that the centre is doing in the Peel Region. One of the major supports of this organization is to address Black Youth homelessness; those that are homeless and those in risk of becoming homeless. They work assiduously to ensure that the maximum number of youths they can help are being helped. They aim for students to remain steadfast in school for their long-term wellbeing.

One of the things that is necessary for the advancement of any young person is that the basic need for housing is fulfilled. We appreciate that the REST Centre is addressing this need through the REST Bridge of Hope Program. Several students from LASS have personally benefited from this program and the grocery program also.

It is important that programs like these are supported, as they not only ensure safer environments for students in need, but the Black Diaspora will certainly benefit from an upliftment to their culture when more Black students complete their education. I am in total support of this program being funded and I look forward to continued partnership with them.

Office: 905 793 5451 ext. 417

Cell: 647 379 0680

Email: valda.keldomcdonald@peelsb.com

Yours sincerely,

Valda Keldo-McDonald
(Guidance Counsellor, founder of PURE YM Boys' Club - LASS)

Sharron Kuhl – Principal

Jolleen Mathews – Vice Principal

Laura Clemenzi – Office Manager

**Tajinder Bhotoia – Acting Vice
Principal**

16.5-5

 **peel** District
School Board