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le professeur Ronald-Frans Melchers

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Criminology
Professor Ronald-Frans Melchers

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To all this concerns,

I write to support the establishment of a Community Residential Facility by House of Hope – La Maison de l'Espérance at McLeod Street.

I have been a professor of criminology at the University of Ottawa since 1983 and was a member of the Board of the House of Hope for ten years from 2005 through 2015, serving as its president from 2011 through 2013. I have had a longer yet history of involvement in the voluntary sector working with and on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens. As such I am delighted to see this new community resource finally come on line after years of hope and work.

My ten years on the Board of the House of Hope inspire in me the greatest confidence that this facility is firstly much needed to enable the safe and measured release into the community of federal offenders having completed their mandatory portions of their sentences and who are ready for release and, secondly, that the House of Hope will provide the environment and services that will support both successful reintegration of its residents and ensure community safety. I am personally very familiar with the services and procedures of the House of Hope and know its staff well. I have the utmost confidence in them.

My more than thirty years of research in many areas of public safety informs me as to how important it is to have these opportunities and services to accompany men released from prison as they build healthy, productive lives and become good citizens and neighbours.

As a past long-time, engaged Centertown resident, I know how well this community has hosted a wide range of services to needy and vulnerable populations and I am certain it will continue to do so well into the future. Like my present neighbours in Hintonburg, another core neighbourhood housing a wide range of residential services for vulnerable people, residents of Centertown have made me proud by their diversity and compassion. We are all made better by their example.

I wish this project well and look forward to engaging with it.

Sincèrement,

Ron Melchers

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