

Ministry of Infrastructure

Office of the Minister

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June 13, 2017

Dear Sir/Madam:

On May 1, 2017, at the Community Hubs Summit, Premier Kathleen Wynne announced that the Province will be launching a program to maintain select surplus public properties for up to 18 months to give community organizations more time to develop plans for community hubs on those properties.

Once the program is launched, community proponents will be able to submit proposals to create community hubs at surplus provincial, school board or hospital properties. If selected, the properties will be maintained in public ownership while community proponents develop their business plans, partnerships, and funding arrangements.

We are actively working on the details of the program design and expect to make them public by the end of June 2017. Today's letter is intended to give community proponents more time to prepare for this opportunity.

It is important to note that the willingness of the current property owner to participate in the program will be required. It is equally important to note that existing rules and regulations pertaining to the circulation of surplus public property would continue to apply, including O. Reg. 444/98 which deals with the disposition of surplus school property.

I would also like to remind you we recently launched the Community Hubs Resource Network (<https://www.communityhubsonario.ca>), an online resource that provides information, tools and data to help build, sustain and operate community hubs. I would encourage those of you who haven't already created a profile to do so. It is an exceptional resource for those who have expertise in this area, as well as for those who are looking for support in developing community hubs.

Our government is committed to making it easier to create community hubs and get the best possible use from surplus public properties that are no longer needed for their original purpose. A number of initiatives are underway as part of our implementation of the Community Hubs Strategic Framework and Action Plan, and I welcome your thoughts and suggestions as we move forward. We are also looking for feedback on expanding and enhancing resources available on the Resource Network. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at community.hubs@ontario.ca.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Infrastructure

c. Karen Pitre, Special Advisor to the Premier on Community Hubs