

### Little Village Wellness Centre Inc. Proposal for the Dame Eliza Chenier

#### Our Vision

Our vision for the Dame Eliza Chenier heritage property is to create a community integrated early child developmental centre with three main components:

- The first would be an *early learning developmental* centre which would provide learning services for indigenous children, children with autism and/or an intellectual or developmental disability, children who are participating in government funded programs such as FSCD and PUF, immigrant children from war torn countries, and children who require social/play skill development.
- Secondly, we will build community partnerships with different community initiatives and government programs such as FSCD, Indigenous Canada, PUF funding through Alberta Education, AISCA (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta), Boys and Girls Club of Edmonton, Metis Association of Alberta, and local city schools and hospitals. We will also plan to collaborate with Little Village Wellness Centre, the John Lang historic site, for psychological/assessment services.
- Thirdly, the centre would have an outdoor play area that would be based on the educational philosophy of Reggio Emilia where children can learn and express themselves through play and cultural activities.

#### Our Mission

- To provide a *safe, caring, and inclusive space* for all children who are struggling with learning, social or developmental challenges due to family, genetic, or environmental challenges. All children can succeed socially and academically if given positive and early learning educational experiences. These experiences are vital to a child's journey and success in elementary school.
- To create an Early Learning Centre for children with disabilities (i.e., autism, developmental coordination disorder, ADHD), indigenous children (i.e., head start program in preparation for elementary school), children whose family members are residential school survivors (i.e., culturally inclusive curriculum), immigrant children (i.e., Ukraine or other war torn countries who need help with the English language while retaining their traditional beliefs and culture), and non-profit government funded programs for children and families (i.e., FSCD -Family Services for Children with Disabilities and PUF-Program Unit Funding with Alberta Education).

## Attachment 3

- The early learning centre would focus on the theme of “Hundred Languages of Children” The term “Hundred languages” is based on the educational philosophy of Reggio Emilia where children learn from their experiences and connect socially with others. “Hundred languages” refers to the many ways that children have of expressing themselves. Examples of these modes of expression include drawing, sculpture, painting, dramatic play, experimenting, reading cultural stories, and writing.
- To preserve the character and distinctiveness of the Dame Eliza Chenier historic site and to honor the entrepreneur who had a vision for the community of Oliver.

### Structural Plan

Our team is committed to the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of this heritage site. We will maintain the exterior and interior design to preserve the integrity of the original building, with no unnecessary modifications. There is no plan to relocate the house on the property or tear down any walls. We will retain the symmetrical plan of the building, the wide wooden castings with decorative crowns around the windows and doors, the original hardwood floors, the two verandas, the timber doors with transoms, and double hung sash windows, along with all other historically protected elements.

Behind the house, the centre will provide green space and a play area for children and families. We will also retain the parking lot behind the house to minimize the impact on street parking.

### Construction Team

We will use the same contractor, Four Elements, that restored the John Lang historic site as well as the same finishing carpenter who has specialized skills and expertise in restoring millwork.

We are *committed* to restoring the Dame Elize Chenier residence in the same manner as the John Lang historic site.

### DEVELOPMENT PLAN

#### What are the benefits of an early child development centre in the community of Oliver?

Children's early years are a time of growth, wonder, and discovery. The early learning curriculum will allow children with developmental disabilities develop the skills they need to experience success in school and pursue knowledge. The programs will:

- Emphasize the valuing of ALL children and provide foundational knowledge, activities, and play which encourages consistent, responsive, and nurturing care.
- Empower families who have children with developmental needs by enhancing their strengths, building their skills, and creating solutions to achieve positive and meaningful growth over time.
- Allow children to experience different cultural experiences.
- Encourage all aspects of children's development and learning – physical, social/moral, emotional, intellectual/cognitive, cultural, and linguistic – all interrelated and interdependent.
- Be in a central location which is accessible for all children and families.
- Target children from the ages of 3 to 12 years of age.
- Provide reading/writing assessments and tutoring services for children with disabilities in reading and/or fine motor skills for writing.
- Apply for Alberta Education Early Child Services (ECS) to administer Program Unit Funding (PUF) in an educational setting for children 2.8 to 6 years of age with severe delays in development.
- Provide specialized services (FSCD) support with children with disabilities (i.e., government funded programs) involving occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech language pathologists, and teachers.

#### Early Child Development Centre

In the Early Learning Centre, we will work from a culturally competent, trauma -informed lens. We are committed to serving ALL children, regardless of culture, race, gender/sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. Our team will offer early learning services to children who have lagging intellectual or social skills. The center will primarily be an inclusive organization suited to meeting the needs of children with developmental needs. These needs may be cognitive (i.e., learning), affective (i.e., trauma), social (i.e., isolation from others), or physical (i.e., developmental coordination disorder).

Families with children with developmental needs (i.e., cognitive, physical, or affective) have a right to inclusiveness in their community based on the ideals of tolerance, dignity, equality, and respect. Each child and family are unique. As educators, we value the importance of the beliefs, traditions, and cultural values of each family for the harmonious development of the child.

## Attachment 3

We are looking forward to restoring this beautiful, historic property, meeting an important need for developmental support in our community, and promoting the well-being of our children. Additionally, we want to honour the historic significance and beauty of the Dame Eliza Chenier residence and the woman who had a vision for the community of Oliver.

Thank you considering our application and offer.