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Leah Gazan
Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre
Député de Winnipeg Centre

July 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Support for Capital Investment in Hope Alley

I am writing to express strong support for capital investment in the Hope Alley project.

The reasons for housing precarity and houselessness are diverse, including poverty, health and mental health distress, addictions, and a cost-of-living and affordability crisis that is putting basic needs out of reach for many. When people live unhoused and in poverty, they are more likely to face violence including gender-based violence, more prone to poor health outcomes including a shorter lifespan, and more likely to face mental health distress and addictions.

We cannot underestimate the power of community to foster hope, resilience, and empowerment for those who are struggling with these crises. Hope Alley will create a welcoming place for unhoused people to gather for warmth, community, and safety, where they can access resources and make a path forward.

Al Wiebe's work is informed by his lived experience of being unhoused. His leadership is powerful because he builds strong community relationships and centers the experiences of those who are still unhoused through a bottom-up empowerment framework. I am confident that his stellar community reputation will lend to the success of this project.

Initiatives driven by lived experience, such as Hope Alley, play an important role in meeting the immediate needs of individuals and families and is part of the diversity of approaches necessary to end the crisis of houselessness.

I am pleased to offer my support to this project. If there is any additional information that I or my staff can provide, don't hesitate to contact me.

Leah Gazan

Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre

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