



Tuesday, March 23, 2021

The Right Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson
Anglican Diocese of Montreal
1444 Union Avenue
Montreal, Quebec
H3A 2B8

Dear Bishop Irwin-Gibson,

The English-Speaking Catholic Council is joining with the community organizations, government representatives and family members that have called for a halt to the plans to close the Fulford Residence. The Council understands the financial and logistical difficulties that face the Board of Directors, made more acute by the loss of life incurred by COVID-19. Nevertheless, the Council would argue that every attempt should be made to bolster, strengthen, and preserve this unique institution.

COVID-19 has revealed to the larger Canadian population what those in the health and social services and community organizations have long known – that the care provided for older adults in most residential facilities is at best inadequate and at worst criminally negligent. For 130 years the Fulford Residence has provided a model of a human-scale and community-oriented institution which could now, post-pandemic, be a template for other institutions. The Council is particularly concerned for the slow erosion of the small, English-speaking establishments in which seniors can truly feel “at home” as opposed to feeling “placed.” In contrast to their French-speaking counterparts, many English-speaking seniors in Quebec do not have the benefit of family members living within the province. They are also increasingly dealing with a health and social services sector that is intolerant of a lack of proficiency in the French language. The fact of the matter is that the English-speaking community in Quebec needs more residences like the Fulford Residence, not one fewer.

The Council would like to express its willingness to provide whatever assistance is meaningful to seek an option for Fulford other than closure.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Celani
President