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Mr. Joe Yurkovich
Vice-President, TRAC
#21135 Terwillegar Postal Outlet 584 Riverbend Square
Edmonton, AB T6R 2V4

Dear Mr. Yurkovich: *Joe*

Thanks for taking the time to provide me with some feedback on the Neighbourhood First Time Homebuyer Program.

This is a program which allows us to address some critical problems in our community. We have an urgent need for more housing; we have a market that is increasingly priced out of reach for first-time buyers and we have a tremendous challenge in dealing with costs associated with growth in our city.

The program addresses all of these issues while only using the school building site which was always supposed to be built on.

I appreciate the concerns as to the process followed on this program, but I believe this program was worthy of the exemption it received.

While I understand the process concerns, communities will still have a substantial opportunity to be part of the process through discussions on site organization and housing design. It is everyone's intention to ensure this is a successful program that will add to the vibrancy of our communities – we are all very motivated to prove the worth of this effort.

It is my sincere hope that once communities see the process unfold, initially through a pilot process, any lingering concerns will be alleviated.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with further concerns.

Yours truly,

Stephen Mandel
Mayor