

What our supporters say

A co-op seems to embody the spirit of the community. Much of Wolseley embraces collective action for the good of the whole, a principle of the Co-op movement. The co-op requirement for financial investment suggests residents would also invest themselves and their skills in the neighbourhood and the larger community.

(Evanson Street resident)

Witnessing the shared compassion and commitment by coop members in developing the cooperative model has been truly hopeful and inspirational for a model to follow ***(Colony Street resident)***

The OGHC has listened to the Wolseley residents and incorporated suggestions into the final plans. Their goal of providing housing needed in the area, to serve the needs and wants of Wolseley residents and create a co-operative community, while being cognizant of the desire to have a development that fits into the neighbourhood, run by a co-op that is mainly made up of residents of the property, is sure to be successful and welcomed by the community. ***(Palmerston Avenue resident)***

I want to stay in Wolseley as I age, as a way to stay connected with my friends and neighbours, as well as local shops and services I use now...I want to live in a setting where the human and general environment is a priority, where sharing space, tools, gardens and more is the norm, and where it will be easy to get help for those household chores it's hard to do on one's own. I want to live in a multi-generational setting where I can learn and mentor. The co-op offers all these things ***(Greenwood Place resident)***

The co-op can help show how it's possible to live in a more sustainable way as climate change and toxics take their toll. It fits well with the Wolseley spirit and culture, as does the physical plan for the buildings and grounds. Please support his innovative, well-designed and important proposal. It will make Wolseley, Winnipeg and Manitoba a better place for so many, inside and outside the building.

(Greenwood Place resident)

One of the things I have always loved about our community is its social, cultural and economic diversity. The co-op will maintain and encourage that diversity ... Physical accessibility is particularly important for new Wolseley housing because it is so rare here ***(Alloway Avenue resident)***

My confidence in the quality of this development is greatly heightened by knowing that the Co-op is working with Prairie Architects Inc. I have direct knowledge of their professionalism and their commitment to people-centred, environmentally conscious community developments. ***(Alloway Avenue resident)***

I feel deeply indebted to those who have been working very hard in support of this broad housing co-operative idea. I deeply trust those who have been involved to incorporate diverse housing needs- low income, seniors, newcomer families. **(Home Street resident)**

We welcome the opportunity to live in a community of people from different cultures, ages, family compositions , with differing mobility and financial circumstances .. we are excited by the coop proposal's plans for environmental sustainability in construction and operation, as well as the design which beautifully blends in with the character of the older homes in the surrounding neighbourhood. **(Home Street resident)**

I have worked in the area of disability for 25 years, It is my hope, as a disabled person, to help ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are addressed in the design of the housing co-op. **(Langside Street resident)**

We know many of the people involved in OGHC through a variety of community initiatives over the years and share their desire to see a new affordable, intergenerational, energy-efficient cooperative housing project in this property. We are confident that OGHC has the necessary skills and experience to see the project through to completion **(Home Street resident)**

We could easily see ourselves living in this housing project in the future. We will simply re-iterate our confidence this group of concerned and involved citizens, we believe the group has the range of expertise and experience to complete this project and equally important they have the support and confidence of their community. **(Home Street resident)**

Co-operatives help build communities. They encourage learning and sharing and help people feel engaged. As a close neighbour of this project I'm excited to see the OGHC bring more residents to the area that are fully engaged in the community. **(Lenore Street resident)**

Wolseley is the community where we "live, move and have our being" Being part of a co-operative fits well with our wish to contribute to an interesting and diverse community...The OGHC as proposed would integrate well with the surrounding housing and would be a valuable addition to Wolseley. **(Westminster Avenue resident)**

We believe the OGHC would be a wonderful addition to the Wolseley community. Not only would much needed affordable housing be built, but the vision, mission, values and principles of the OGHC mean that OGHC members intend the co-op to be part of the Wolseley community. To that end, right from the beginning OGHC has taken steps to engage with the community, our neighbours. **(Dominion Street resident)**

I am writing today to support the Old Grace Housing Cooperative in their initiative to provide affordable stable housing options in the Wolseley community. I live just down the street from the project site **(Evanson Street resident)**

I am a believer in “down town” and wanted to live and continue to want to live where I do not have to rely on an automobile .. we are ready to downsize. When I heard of the possibility of cooperative housing on the Old Grace site, I immediately joined. And the core values I expected have proven true. **(Alloway Avenue resident)**

We live just down the street and will be impacted by the new neighbours to the north of us. We have been aware of the OGHC plans through ongoing consultations held in the community. The vision of an intergenerational cooperative housing community fits firmly with the values of the Wolseley neighbourhood and Winnipeg as a whole. A cooperative housing development is exciting; cooperatives have community development as a central goal and will foster healthy community values such as reciprocity and interdependence **(Arlington Street resident)**

The cooperative values of the housing model and the supportive community it will foster will be a huge asset to Winnipeg for decades to come. We very much hope to have OGHC as our neighbours in the near future **(Arlington Street resident)**

The OGHC is the only proponent that has meaningfully engaged in a dialogue with the community over a prolonged period, soliciting our ideas and input as well as hearing our worries and addressing our concerns. **(Evanson Street resident)**

I believe that a co-op model is the probably the most responsible and self-sustaining way to develop new affordable housing, wherein members themselves have a vested interest in the long-term health of the community and preservation of the building. Even part-ownership brings pride and responsibility that renting never can, **(Evanson Street resident)**

I can't wait until the coop is built and we are all enjoying it. The community collective approach to building this coop emulates exactly what Wolseley is all about. **(Dominion Street resident)**

One of the features of this proposal that is appealing to us is that it has arisen from the local Wolseley community. It is genuinely a community-based initiative. We like the fact that the proponents are local, that the process has been consultative, that the project will be intergenerational and will include a mix of incomes and abilities, and that green measures are prominently featured. **(Ruby Street resident)**

What excited me about the project is the opportunity to be involved in the planning, the inclusion of the garden, the car share, and the fact that the plan reflects the

Wolseley style and values. This project has interested me enough to invest \$500 from a limited savings of \$5500. ***(Greenwood Place resident)***

All through the process, the OGHC has consulted with the Wolseley community in a meaningful way.... anyone who has felt the need to be heard regarding the re-development of the site has certainly has the opportunity during the many community meetings they've held over the past 3 years. ***(Sprague Street resident)***

The designs that are being put forward for the site are beautiful, exciting and intended to fit with the overall flavor of the neighbourhood. This complex could be a real jewel that Winnipeg and Manitoba could show off to other cities as a success story of community participation and long-term sustainability. ***(Sprague Street resident)***

The co-op has built a very strong, locally-based organization that is dedicated to a multi-generational and diverse housing development. And we have had a number of conversations with members of the Housing Cooperative team. These informal conversations have demonstrated the group's commitment to consultation and its responsiveness to community concerns. ***(Home Street resident)***

I wholeheartedly support the work of the Housing co-op and their proposed plans for the site. The use of space and conformity to the Wolseley environs is addressed beautifully in the design ***(Chestnut Street resident)***

I am a supporter of wild bird conservation and will be happy to see a place that will accommodate the neighbourhood chimney swifts. ***(Dominion Street resident)***

Working with the cooperative, which has a very broad based intergenerational and multi-faceted community-based service model, is a win-win project on many levels in terms of cost effectiveness and overall community participation. It would help CPA better meet the challenges faced by people living with spinal cord injuries, and increase their human potential and life satisfaction. ***(Canadian Paraplegic Association)***

I would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the OGHC proposal for the Evanson Street site in the strongest possible terms. We believe that their process and their guiding principles have been exemplary in reflecting both cooperative principles and a commitment to sound community development. I have found them to have a leadership group that is deep in skills and experience, and they have consulted the broader community and various stakeholders extensively. They have sought out the resources to broaden their knowledge base and ensure a strong and viable proposal. ***(Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada)***

I have a sense that the co-op has a real commitment to construct a project that not only meets the housing needs of their membership and the community but proves to

be an asset to the neighbourhood. Their plans to keep the community informed and engage the community in carrying out their project will ensure that the neighbourhood will be satisfied with the completed project. ***(Day Nursery Centre)***

We encourage Manitoba Housing to give the proposal of the Old Grace Co-op very serious consideration. By doing so it will encourage and allow the Wolseley area to improve as a whole. ***(Foodfare)***

The inclusion of 4 four-bedroom RGI units in response to identified need for larger newcomer families to have affordable options is particularly noteworthy.

We are very excited by the cooperative housing opportunities this project offers for newcomer families, as well as other lo- income families who will benefit from living in such a community. This mixed-housing will not only meet a critical housing need for some newcomer families, but will also assist with their long term integration into the community. ***(Manitoba Immigrant & Refugee Settlement Sector Association)***

I fully support and eagerly look forward to the OGHC. It would be a great fit for the neighbourhood, creating new spaces for people downsizing, families coming in and providing young people with sorely needed access to housing in Wolseley. Also it allows for continuity among residents, allowing people to move out their houses without moving out of the neighbourhood. ***(The Neighbourhood Bookstore and Café)***

OGHC's proposal for intergenerational housing will be a welcome option for the diverse community that is seeking housing in Wolseley. Seniors, newcomer families, people with disabilities, and young families of all income levels could benefit from the unique, neighbourhood-considerate, affordable and supportive cooperative. *Therefore we are strongly supportive of OGHC's mission and values.* ***(New Journey Housing)***

Peg City sees Old Grace as a natural partner to provide mutually beneficial services, and support their communities in similar ways. The site at 189 Evanson in Wolseley would be well-served by transit and have walkable amenities nearby. These are the ideal urban environments for car sharing and a partnership with Old Grace will realize, support or enhance service in the area. ***(Peg City Car Co-op)***

This housing and community engagement process has implications for the whole city. With limited mixed income, intergenerational and cooperative housing available, the OGHC project is an extremely valuable model that, once established and proven successful, can be replicated in the future. We appreciate OGHC efforts to organize additional financial support for those who require it. This is evidence of how we are building a supportive and sharing-based community, not just a housing complex. ***(Prairie Rivers Cohousing)***

The membership of the cooperative have worked diligently over the last two years to build their organization, their membership, and to work with community partners in discerning the vision for housing. They invited our participation in the design process. **(St. Margaret's Anglican Church)**

The co-op membership represents a healthy cross section of community residents, and has articulated an ethic of inclusiveness. We believe the co-op would contribute to positive community building in the Wolseley area, increase the supply of affordable housing, and be undertaken in a manner consistent with CED and cooperative principles. **(SEED Winnipeg)**

We have appreciated the extensive level of collaboration and community consultation that OGHC has done with community stakeholders, interested nonprofits, and neighbours. OGHC has reached out to Siloam on numerous occasions and their effort is greatly appreciated. **(Siloam Mission)**

The quality and design of the premises being presented lends itself to hold owners accountable for its care and upkeep. The housing cooperative approach to addressing housing needs of the neighbourhood is inclusive and promotes a diverse community. We have seen great efforts to hear and include all input. **(Spence Neighbourhood Association)**

This housing cooperative would be a huge resource for us in this safe community setting, close to Gordon Bell, Urgent Care and other important community resources needed by a young family. **(Villa Rosa)**

As representatives of a neighbouring community, we at WCBO recognize the critical need for affordable housing and alternative ownership models within Winnipeg's inner city. **(West Broadway Community Organization)**