

**The Lorna Tomlinson Residence for Seniors – Mortgage Paid in Full!**

Wendat Community Programs is very excited to announce that the Lorna Tomlinson Residence for Seniors is now mortgage free!

Today, former and current staff, residents and Board members gathered to burn the mortgage and celebrate. The donor wall displaying the names of all donors who contributed to the original capital campaign or have donated since 2016 to pay off the mortgage is now complete. Pictured below in front of the donor wall from left to right are Charlotte Nicholson, Financial Administrator, Andrea Abbott-Kokosin, Executive Director, Lorna Tomlinson Former Executive Director, Zina Thomson, Program Supervisor and in the back, Michael Webb President of the Board.



Photo by Nate Lacroix

Wendat's executive director, Andrea Abbott-Kokosin explained that "the Town of Penetanguishene donated the land to build the Residence, and fundraising paid for 80% of the build. The final amount of \$1 million was in a mortgage, which was paid off in full in July 2021." Abbott-Kokosin went on to explain that "It is thanks to the support of each and every company and individual who donated to the original capital campaign or since 2016 towards paying off the mortgage that this was possible."

Michael Webb, President of the Wendat Board of Directors commented that "the residence is a major reason that I strongly support this organization, both financially and personally with my time."

Former Executive Director and the namesake of the facility, Lorna Tomlinson said "This Residence is the only truly affordable, supported, retirement living for frail seniors in Ontario. And, it was made possible by the generosity of the whole community that supported the entire cost of the build, and the final paying off of the mortgage. I feel very proud to have been a part of making this possible for North Simcoe."

The Residence, operated by Wendat Community Programs opened in February 2016. It provides affordable, supported living to 23 frail seniors of low income. Each resident

enjoys a private room with private bathroom, full meal service in the dining room, 24-hour access to the servery for snacks, 24-hour staff on site, housekeeping and access to a full day activity program. The total cost is just over \$1,000 a month and includes assisted living by qualified personal support workers as needed. The home has multiple lounge and activity areas and provides weekly trips for local shopping.

Seniors are a rapidly growing section of our population and nowhere in the Province is this more evident than in North Simcoe. The Town of Midland, Planning and Building Department stated in January 2018 that as of 2016 the local senior population represented over 25% of the total population. By 2041, the number of people over 65 in Simcoe-Muskoka is projected to surpass 218,800 which is more than double the number of seniors from 2011 (Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, 2016 Census Data). Stats Canada has confirmed that we now have more seniors in Canada than children and adolescents.

Although Wendat has paid off the mortgage, they must raise \$100,000 annually to meet the operating costs not covered by rent collected from residents and funding received from Ontario Health Central Region. You can help by donating on-line at [www.wendatprograms.com](http://www.wendatprograms.com)



Photo by Nate Lacroix

The Lorna Tomlinson Residence for Seniors, owned and operated by Wendat Community Programs

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