

**January 7, 2026**

**Re: Support for Community Builders & EDF Funding**

To Mayor and Council,

As the leading not-for-profit, construction-based social enterprise in Simcoe County and Greater Sudbury—with new locations in Muskoka and Sault Ste. Marie—Community Builders plays a vital role in employment training, workforce development, and the creation of affordable housing. Their work contributes significantly to building healthy, vibrant communities. We are pleased to offer our strong support and to recognize that construction training combined with wrap-around supports for individuals facing barriers to employment is a critical pathway to meaningful, long-term careers in the skilled trades.

Community Builders is helping address two of Canada's most pressing challenges: the affordable housing crisis and the skilled labour shortage. At the same time, they are opening doors for individuals who are currently underrepresented in the construction industry, creating inclusive opportunities and strengthening the workforce.

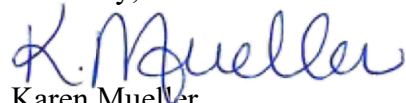
The Sault Ste. Marie Construction Association is proud to support Community Builders as they expand their programming into our community.

We are also pleased to support Community Builders' application to the Economic Development Fund, as their work aligns strongly with the objectives of the program. This funding will enable Community Builders to continue delivering measurable and meaningful impact, including:

- Nearly 200 paid positions available annually through Trades & Diversity programming across their locations
- The construction or maintenance of hundreds of affordable housing units each year
- Over 1,000 applicants annually, demonstrating strong community demand
- Approximately 90% of graduates securing meaningful employment in the trades after program completion
- A high social return on investment, generating millions of dollars in annual savings across justice, health, and social service systems

We strongly recommend Community Builders for funding and look forward to partnering with them as they continue their important work in our community.

Sincerely,



Karen Mueller

Manager of Training and Development  
Sault Ste. Marie Construction Association