AN OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF NORFOLK COUNTY

Re: New Norfolk Recreation/Culture Complex initiative

Recently, Fanshawe College has, with the help of our partners in the community, expanded and enhanced our programming at the Simcoe/Norfolk Regional Campus. In 2014, after purchasing our building, we completely renovated our Campus, at a cost of almost $5 million, creating state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces. We are very proud of these initiatives and appreciate the support of the community.

Fanshawe College's Simcoe/Norfolk Regional Campus is ready to grow and develop new programs designed to meet community needs. We are encouraged by High Point Development's interest in developing residences to house new, full time students in South-Western Ontario.

We know that a significant College presence in our community would provide Norfolk's youth with more and better options to obtain a post-secondary school education locally; provide local employers with a better pool of skilled candidates for employment; allow for better and more services and programs to adults and other stakeholders in the County; attract others (including students and families) to the area; and have a significant and positive impact on the local economy.

We cannot, however, simply expand our programming without regard to infrastructure. Our ability to grow and attract students is impeded without appropriate student housing options and other amenities that students seek. This is because prospective students want the entire college experience. For a College to attract students, facilities for "extra-curricular" activities have to be at hand, within walking distance of the campus. Unfortunately, we are not in a position to build such infrastructure ourselves; community partnerships are necessary to make this happen.

We strongly support the initiative for a Community Hub in Norfolk County. The initiative, on lands that will allow us to enhance our programming, will help everyone in the area.

To hear more about the Community Hub initiative, and about how it fits into our plans for Fanshawe College, we invite all interested persons to attend an **Open House presentation** and discussion of the proposal. This will be hosted by the Norfolk CARE citizens' committee at Fanshawe College's Simcoe/Norfolk Regional Campus at 634 Ireland Road in Simcoe, on **Saturday April 1, 2017 at 2:00 pm** in Room B115.
We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Donna Gates
Chair, Simcoe/Norfolk Regional Campus

FANSHAWE COLLEGE