

Central Etobicoke Community Hub Working Group Fact Sheet
What Is A Community Hub? Do We Need A Hub in Central Etobicoke?
October 2017

Provincial Hub Framework and Action Plan

In 2015, Premier Kathleen Wynne launched the *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan* that detailed the provincial government's commitment to community hubs in an effort to integrate services for Ontarians. According to the Premier's Community Hubs Framework Advisory Group, a Community Hub is described as the following:

When people think of community hubs, they think of places where people come together to get services, meet one another and plan together. We've heard that community hubs are gathering places that help communities live, build and grow together. No community hub is like another, as each brings together a variety of different services, programs and/or social and cultural activities to reflect local community needs. It is this diversity of activity that allows community hubs to play a critical role in building economic and social cohesion in the community.

Hub Benefits

The Provincial government has argued that there are multiple benefits of hubs including enhanced learning opportunities through school-community partnerships, increased access to efficient and sustainable services, wraparound services which broaden the range of services provided and social return on investments. Community hubs have been cited in additional reports like the *Review of the Roots of Youth Violence* conducted by former Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry and former Ontario Legislature Speaker Alvin Curling for the Government of Ontario in 2008. This report noted that community hubs “provide space for community activities, including meetings, recreation the arts, and service providers.” United Way Toronto also supported the concept of community hubs in their *Building Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy* which advocated that hubs build stronger more cohesive communities.

Central Etobicoke Needs a Hub

It has been researched and quantified that the current infrastructure in Central Etobicoke is insufficient to support the community's needs, community members having detailed the gaps in community services and spaces. The need is for a common, primarily public-funded connecting place that is accessible, inclusive and provides opportunities and support to a wide variety of residents. Such a space would be a shared gathering place

that would encourage collaboration, opportunities for referral, and coordination, providing an improvement in collective impact by breaking down service silos and creating integrated supports to address the needs of the community. It seems clear that a Community Hub, namely a multi-purpose space, would consolidate virtually all of the identified needs, including a community health centre, seniors recreation, drop in services for youth, and communal space where residents including children, youth, seniors and newcomers can gather and interact.

Vision for a Community Hub in Central Etobicoke

The Central Etobicoke Community Hub Working Group has been organizing the research about, and advocacy for, a Community Hub since the summer of 2016, building on the good work of predecessors in the central Etobicoke community since the mid-1990's. The Working Group's vision for a Hub in Wards 3 & 4 is stated in the Terms of Reference agreed upon by participants at the group's founding, as follows:

To create a community-based and community-led hub offering multiple services and programs, including community gathering space, that meet the needs of youth and seniors, families and singles living and/or working in central Etobicoke, enabling them to become fully engaged, healthy, socially included, and participating members of the community.

If you'd like to become involved in working toward this vision, be in touch with Brian McIntosh, 416-817-2606 or minister.bloordaleunited@gmail.com.