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Cheyenne apartments proposal uneconomic

Most people I have talked to in London about the beleaguered Cheyenne apartments do care and most residents would go out of their way to make the newly arrived immigrants feel welcome to our community. For the most part, Canadians have been generous in this regard and certainly the residents of the Cheyenne apartments have benefited from the hospitality.

I have taken the initiative to visit the site and to compare it to other locations in the city. Believe it or not, one quickly realizes that the apartments are not bad in comparison. We all agree the buildings lack certain amenities and good design for a family setting. This, of course, is no compelling reason to have the apartments taken down.

I am of the opinion that public funding should not be spent on this proposal. It amounts to a bail-out of what I see as the responsibility of the

landlord to maintain the buildings in good repair and provide residents with at least the bare minimum standards of accommodation as prescribed by law.

From reading references to the presence of feces, urine and cockroaches, it is not difficult to draw the conclusion that sanitation and hygiene should be of more importance than the condition of the building.

The proposal to the ministry of housing by local politicians and interested individuals to purchase the buildings with public funds at market cost, simply to have the building taken down and replaced with new construction, does not make economic sense. It is not the best way to improve upon the supply of affordable housing in the community.

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