

Ahnii, Boozhoo, Steve Teekens Ni diznicas, Nipissing no donjiba. Hello, my name is Steve Teekens. I am from Nipissing First Nation and call Toronto home. I am the Executive Director of Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence). I am happy to provide greetings to you in the Anishnawbe language, coincidentally, my grandparents were beaten for speaking Anishnawbe and endured countless abuses by the staff who operated the Catholic residential schools they attended in Spanish Ontario. I know my families experience is way to common in First Nations community.

Na-Me-Res is an Indigenous not for profit affordable housing provider based in Toronto. We create affordable housing for Indigenous men who have experienced homelessness. We have recently acquired a property located at 537 Broadview Ave which will be 12 affordable self-contained units.

I would like to thank the TCDSB for the development charge waivers for two other Na-Me-Res affordable housing projects approved on November 18, 2021. Meegwetch for waiving those EDC's. This is a fine example of tangible reconciliation.

Today I request a waiver of Education Development Charges (EDC) for Na-Me-Res' Indigenous-led, City of Toronto-supported affordable rental housing at 537 Broadview. The City of Toronto Council on February 7, 2024, approved waivers of parkland dedication fees and development charges for 537 Broadview. The conditions for this request of the TCDSB to provide a waiver are basically the same conditions to which the TCDSB waived the EDC's for our affordable housing projects in 2021.

In closing, I was planning to use the topic of reconciliation as the basis of my request; however, I was surprised but not surprised to see that the TCDSB does not have any Indigenous reconciliation policies.

So I will close with this quote from the web page of the [Archdiocese of Toronto - Background for Catholics: Residential Schools \(archtoronto.org\)](https://www.archtoronto.org/background-for-catholics-residential-schools). Quote "We acknowledge the terrible suffering that took place and condemn the system, established by the federal government and operated by faith communities, which separated children, often forcibly, from their parents and attempted to strip away their language, culture and identity.

The Catholic Church must atone for our involvement in this dark history. It is undeniable that some Catholic teachers (priests, religious men and women and lay staff) entrusted to care for children at residential schools assaulted the dignity of the students through mistreatment, neglect and abuse." End quote.

I humbly request that TCDSB in the name of tangible reconciliation vote in favour of waiving the EDC for the Na-Me-Res affordable housing at 537 Broadview. As the grandchild of Catholic residential school survivors, I feel it is unjust to require Indigenous organizations to pay anything to any Catholic entities, given their history in participating in cultural genocide towards First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples for multiple generations.