

## **Update on other PROJECTS:**

### **1. Residence for seniors (Independent Living)**

The concept of establishing a residential complex for seniors of the Hindu Community has been under consideration for the past 15 years. With many of our devotees approaching advanced age, interest in the project has been revived and with that in mind, two members of the Board visited several retirement homes in the Ottawa and Toronto area.

The two basic patterns observed were:

1. Private retirement homes run as a business for profit. These are good but were found to be quite expensive, about \$4000-\$5,000 per month, which includes food.
2. Subsidized homes for low-income families, run by churches and temples, but partly controlled by the Government and the City, who provide funds. These homes are open to everyone, without any restrictions on ethnic or religious background or food habits. These are, however, restricted to people in certain income bracket.

### **The Retirement Community under consideration:**

This will be an Exclusive Community of Hindu Devotees who would like to live in the proximity of a place of worship and participate in, and be part of, the Hindu Temple programs. Other considerations are language, food and cultural activities. Associated with this Retirement Home, will be a Hindu Cultural Center, where major events (religious as well as social) can be conducted, including weddings, religious festivals, discourses on Hinduism, music and dance festivals, etc. It should be clear that the residential facility is not for those who have health problems requiring constant medical and nursing care. The retirement home will be non-profitable, under the jurisdiction of the temple, which is a charitable body and has to abide by CRA rules. There are certain restrictions to be followed for such a non-profitable project.

### **Creating a Housing Corporation:**

It is proposed to establish a Housing Corporation including people who are interested to live at the temple premises. The Corporation should include a representative of the temple. Although under the jurisdiction of the temple, the project could be run independently by the Corporation. Temple will lease the land to the Corporation at a nominal price. The Corporation will arrange financing from a bank or from individuals who are willing to use their own funds to build and maintain the residence. Financing will include the capital cost and running cost (including property taxes,

hydro, water, heating, phone, internet, repairs and other maintenance etc).

Although the Temple Board is the supervisory body, the Temple will not carry any liability.

### **Cost of Building and Operation:**

The cost of building an apartment of 750 sq. ft. living area is estimated to be \$ 150,000 (at \$200/sq. ft.). The cost of borrowing this fund from the bank (at 4% interest rate) will be \$ 6,000 per year or \$ 500 per month. Adding other running costs mentioned above, the total cost could be \$ 1,400- 1500 per month. This cost does not include personal items such as Food.

If an individual wants to use one's own funds, without having to borrow from a bank, the cost will be about \$1,000 per month, as there is no interest charge. This cost will be well below the amount one would have to pay in any retirement home in the city.

If a resident wants to leave the apartment at some point, it is hoped that someone else from the Hindu community will purchase it at the cost price, as the project is non-profitable.

### **Food:**

Due to the proximity to the Hindu Temple, a place of worship, it is intended to preserve the sanctity and serenity of the area and it is proposed that the residents follow a Vegetarian diet and not consume alcohol in the premises.

### **Meeting to discuss the Proposal:**

It is proposed to have a meeting of the devotees who will be seriously interested in the project. The date of the meeting will be decided after receiving the responses from interested participants. To proceed with this project, commitment from at least 20 devotees who would like to live at the temple premises is needed. This will give us some ideas about the need as well as the finances.

Those who are seriously interested in this project are requested to contact:

**Shiv Jindal, Chairman Committee for seniors' Residence and Cultural Center, Hindu Temple of Ottawa-Carleton.**  
Tel: 613-692 2538 email: [sljindal@yahoo.com](mailto:sljindal@yahoo.com)

### **2. Hindu Heritage-Cultural Center:**

A member of our community has come up with several designs for the Center. In the next 6 months, architectural drawings and other plans will be completed, for applying for the building permit. Details about the center are available on the website: [www.hindutemple.ca](http://www.hindutemple.ca)