



March 8th, 2023

**Re: Abilities Centre for MY MS FAMILY's application for the development of the York Region Rehabilitation and Support Centre**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to support the **Abilities Centre application for MY MS FAMILY's** organization to develop the York Region Rehabilitation and Support Centre. The development of this Rehabilitation centre Center will establish the grounds for creating a centralized, accessible, and inclusive space where individuals of all abilities, specifically those with neurological disease, can seize the opportunity to participate in barrier-free health and wellness programs that support their overall quality of life. Many individuals with neurological diseases living in York Region are faced with barriers to receiving and participating in high-quality rehabilitation programming.

By developing the Abilities Centre facility, it is believed that multiple barriers would be removed for York Region residents, especially the need to travel to programs outside of York Region; currently identified as a challenge that residents with disabilities, their families and caregivers encounter on a daily basis. The team at MY MS FAMILY and their partners have proven their profound understanding regarding the significance of high-quality accessibility services for community-based post-rehabilitation exercise and the key observation that these opportunities are yet to be distributed in an equitable manner across our community. Social determinants of health, such as income, culture, physical environments, and social support networks, all influence access to these essential services for community members and those most vulnerable.

Abilities Centre's objective is to unlock potential through accessibility, and their vision is to build and contribute to a better, barrier-free life for all Canadians with various abilities across York Region. MY MS FAMILY's key vision is the following: "Our communities need to reimagine accessibility and redefine how Canadians and especially those with disability live, work and play. Accessibility, inclusion, innovation, and equity are more than words for Abilities Centre; they are at the heart of every program and service created and implemented."

In executing this plan, the team at MY MS FAMILY and their partners utilize around 125,000 sq. feet, a fully accessible facility to build, test, and scale post-rehabilitation, health, skills development, and sports programs. They also provide unique support for community members, no matter their ability, age, or background, to improve their quality of life by leaving a remarkably positive impact on their state of health & well-being, social inclusion, and economic participation within the community.

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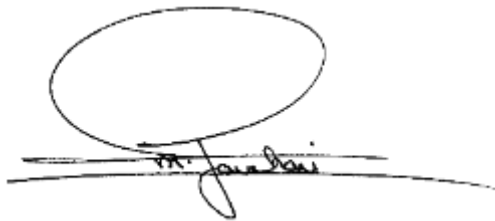
Abilities Centre and the team at MY MS FAMILY collaborate with healthcare partners, including Universal Health Network, Alzheimer's Society, Lung and Health Foundation, Lakeridge Health, and Heart & Stroke Foundation, in the identification of individual and community healthcare needs alongside the development and provision of post-rehabilitation exercise programs and community health projects. The Research team, using the Impact Assessment Framework, has proven the impact and success of their post-rehabilitation programs on the mental, physical, and social health of individuals and families.

Abilities Centre will work with the York Region Rehabilitation and Support Centre to bring their portfolio of post-rehabilitation programs to the residents of the York Region with a key focus on advancing Inclusion and enhancing the quality of life for everyone across our communities.

I, Majid Jowhari, as the member of parliament for Richmond Hill, am fully confident that funding for this proposal for the development of the Abilities Centre for MY MS FAMILY York Region Rehabilitation and Support Centre will enrich the quality of life for many community members and will consequently help fulfil many goals, namely the desire to help those in need within the community.

I trust the above will be of interest; however, should you require further information, please feel free to contact my constituency office at (905) 707-9701.

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Jowhari', is written over a horizontal line. Above the signature is a large, hand-drawn oval shape.

***Majid Jowhari***  
*Member of Parliament*  
*Richmond Hill & Markham*