



March 17, 2018

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
9th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Dear Honorable Daiene Vernile,

I write on behalf of Toronto's West Side Community Council (WSCC) to express our joint concern about the Province's ongoing procedure for the planning and development of Ontario Place.

The WSCC represents nine (9) community associations: Parkdale Residents Association (PRA), Roncesvalles–Macdonell Residents Association (RMRA), Beaconsfield Village Residents Association (BVRA), Active 18 (A18), Ossington Community Association (OCA), Trinity–Bellwoods Community Association (TBCA), Lakeview Avenue Neighbourhood Association (LANA), Grange Community Association (GCA) and Liberty Village Residents' Association (LVRA). These groups represent the bulk of the citizenry in broad proximity to Ontario Place.

Ongoing and future Ontario Place initiatives will clearly have a large impact on our local communities. However, so far as we are aware, the Province has not engaged in any significant consultation with local residents' groups about the present and future vision for Ontario Place.

We thus request that the Province take immediate steps to correct this omission, henceforth involving the WSCC, in particular, in the Province's visioning plans for Ontario Place. In service of such involvement, **we request that a Minister-led Ontario Place Working Group be formed, containing representatives from the community associations constituting the West Side Community Council.**

We congratulate the government on the development of Trillium Park (7.5 acres on the Eastern portion of the Eastern Island of Ontario Place). So far, so good! But there remains, depending on how one is counting, between 90 and 140 acres whose fate is unclear. Given the recent successful approvals of RFPs for the Eastern and Western Islands, **now is the time for the Province to engage local residents, local Councillors,**

City Planners, and others working on the Exhibition Place Master Plan, to ensure that the revitalization of these historic, publicly owned lands is done right.

Of particularly grave concern as regards the future of Ontario Place is the objective to “maximize revenue generation”, contained in the Ontario Place Corporation 2015–2017 Business Plan. A similar objective for Exhibition Place has been devastating, with revenue generation goals being used to justify the redirection of publicly owned heritage buildings and parklands into private hands, via long-term leases of 21 years or more. This transfer of public lands into private hands effectively constitutes *disposal* of these lands, and their removal from the public realm. We strongly believe such publicly owned lands should be used for higher purposes than ‘maximizing revenue generation’.

Ontario Place is a treasured asset on the edge of Lake Ontario in the heart of the City. The Ontario Government is mandated to manage, both strategically and fiscally, for the benefit of the citizens of Toronto, regional residents and tourists. We, the locally affected citizens and residents of western Toronto, deserve a say in the future of Ontario Place. Again, we ask that the Province act in all due haste to appropriately include local communities in the future planning of these publicly owned lands, via the creation of a Minister-led Ontario Place Working Group containing representatives from the community associations constituting the West Side Community Council.

The WSCC would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Ric Amis

Chair, West Side Community Council

On behalf of nine (9) community associations:

Parkdale Residents Association (Ric Amis, representative)

Grange Community Association (Ralph Daley, representative)

Beaconsfield Village Residents Association (Randy Kerr, representative)

Trinity Bellwoods Community Association (Lois Schklar, representative)

Ossington Community Association (Jessica Wilson, representative)

Lakeview Avenue Neighbourhood Association (Daphne Ballon, representative)

Active 18 (Graham Caswell, representative)

Liberty Village Residents' Association (Todd Hofley, representative)

Roncesvalles–Macdonell Residents Association (Norman Kolasky, representative)

CCs to MPP Han Dong, Mayor Tory, Councillor Layton, Councillor Perks, Councillor Cressy, Ontario Place, CNE, Royal Winter Fair, Exhibition Place, DTAH, Partisan Projects