

## 4. Exploring Controversial City Issues Activity

### “Not In My Backyard!” (NIMBY)

#### What does “NIMBY” mean?

**NIMBY** is an acronym for “**Not In My Back Yard**”!

The term is usually used to describe controversial situations where local citizens are opposed to government proposals to place new developments or services in their communities.

Municipal governments, for example, often seek new developments to help it operate more efficiently or to provide much needed or important services. The city may also need these developments to help it run smoothly or to create more jobs and a bigger tax base.

Examples of such issues include:

- Landfill sites
- Incinerators
- Power plants
- Jails
- Group homes
- Public housing
- Airports
- Expressways
- Police stations
- Animal shelters
- TTC yards

We are able to infer that many people do not want them in their neighborhood for many different reasons - hence, the term **NIMBY**: “**Not In My Back Yard**”!

## ABC ACTIVITY: NIMBY ISSUES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Make an **ABC list** of as many NIMBY issues that you can think of and briefly **explain why** they are controversial.

|          | <b>NIMBY</b> | <b>Explanation</b> |
|----------|--------------|--------------------|
| <b>A</b> |              |                    |
| <b>B</b> |              |                    |
| <b>C</b> |              |                    |
| <b>D</b> |              |                    |
| <b>E</b> |              |                    |
| <b>F</b> |              |                    |
| <b>G</b> |              |                    |
| <b>H</b> |              |                    |
| <b>I</b> |              |                    |
| <b>J</b> |              |                    |
| <b>K</b> |              |                    |
| <b>L</b> |              |                    |
| <b>M</b> |              |                    |
| <b>N</b> |              |                    |
| <b>O</b> |              |                    |
| <b>P</b> |              |                    |
| <b>Q</b> |              |                    |
| <b>R</b> |              |                    |
| <b>S</b> |              |                    |
| <b>T</b> |              |                    |
| <b>U</b> |              |                    |
| <b>V</b> |              |                    |
| <b>W</b> |              |                    |
| <b>X</b> |              |                    |
| <b>Y</b> |              |                    |
| <b>Z</b> |              |                    |

## ABC ACTIVITY (examples): NIMBY ISSUES IN THE CITY OF TORONTO

Make an **ABC list** of as many NIMBY issues that you can think of and briefly **explain why** they are controversial.

|          | <b>NIMBY</b>                                      | <b>Explanation</b>                       |
|----------|---|--|
| <b>A</b> | Airport   | Increased noise, traffic                 |
| <b>B</b> | Bicycle Lane                                      | Increased traffic, pollution             |
| <b>C</b> | Car Pool Lane                                     | Increased traffic, pollution             |
| <b>D</b> | Dump  | Pollution, odour, health concerns        |
| <b>E</b> | Electrical Power Lines                            | Lowers property value, health concerns   |
| <b>F</b> | Fire Station                                      | Increased noise                          |
| <b>G</b> | Group Homes                                       | Lowers property value, increase in crime |
| <b>H</b> | Highways  | Noise, Lower value of property           |
| <b>I</b> | Incinerator                                       | Pollution, health concerns               |
| <b>J</b> | Jails   | Safety, lowers property value            |
| <b>K</b> | Kitchen for those in need ( <i>soup kitchen</i> ) | Safety concerns                          |
| <b>L</b> | Landfills   | Pollution, odour, health concerns        |
| <b>M</b> | Military Base                                     | Traffic, safety concerns                 |
| <b>N</b> | Nuclear Plant                                     | Pollution, health and safety concerns    |
| <b>O</b> | Orphanage   | Lowers property value                    |
| <b>P</b> | Parking Lot                                       | Increased traffic                        |
| <b>Q</b> | Quarry  | Traffic, pollution                       |
| <b>R</b> | Recycling Plant                                   | Pollution, odour, health concerns        |
| <b>S</b> | Shelter for Animals                               | Health concerns                          |
| <b>T</b> | Toxic Waste                                       | Health concerns                          |
| <b>U</b> | Underground Subway Line                           | Construction, noise                      |
| <b>V</b> | Vehicle Licensing Centre                          | Increased traffic, noise                 |
| <b>W</b> | Waste Disposal Center                             | Health concerns                          |
| <b>X</b> | X-Rated Movie Theatre                             | Community standards and morals           |
| <b>Y</b> | Yards for TTC Vehicles                            | Increased traffic, pollution             |
| <b>Z</b> | Zoo   | Animal rights concerns                   |

## K-W-H-L ACTIVITY

Choose one NIMBY issue from the ABC NIMBY list and **complete** the chart below:

NIMBY Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>K</b>              | <b>W</b>                      | <b>H</b>   | <b>L</b>                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>What I Know...</b> | <b>What I Want to Know...</b> | <b>How Will I Find Information?</b><br><br>(Which resources will I use? Where will I find these resources??) | <b>What I Learned...</b> |
|                       |                               |  |                          |

## NIMBY PLACEMAT ACTIVITY

*“How do I feel about the City of Toronto’s proposal to develop a new  
\_\_\_\_\_ in my neighbourhood?”*

### Instructions:

1. In groups of four, **read** the NIMBY issue proposal provided to your group.
2. Acting within your designated role, **think** of how you feel about the City of Toronto’s proposal for the new development in your neighbourhood.
3. **Write** down your position on the issue in your section of the placemat – be sure to provide supporting arguments and/or evidence.

### Public Housing Development

*The City of Toronto proposes to construct a new 12-story public housing building in your neighbourhood that will provide housing to approximately 120 families.*

#### **Roles:**

*Local Resident*

*Local Business Owner*

*Public Housing Employee*

*Single Parent in Need of Housing*

### Incinerator

*The City of Toronto proposes to construct a 10,000 square meter incinerator in your neighbourhood which will convert garbage waste into useable energy.*

#### **Roles:**

*Local Home Owner*

*Local Business Owner*

*Waste Management Employee*

*Public Health Manager*

### **Group Home for Youth with Addictions**

*The City of Toronto proposes to place a group home in your neighbourhood that will provide treatment for 20 youth struggling with addictions problems.*

#### **Roles:**

*Local Resident*

*Local Business Owner*

*Youth Social Worker*

*Parents of Youth In Need of Treatment*

### **Rail Transit Extension**

*The City of Toronto proposes to construct an above ground rail transit extension through your neighbourhood to help citizens access the city and ease traffic congestion.*

#### **Roles:**

*Local Home Owner*

*Local Business Owner*

*Transit Employee*

*Public Transit Commuter*

### **Landfill Site**

*The City of Toronto proposes to place a 100,000 square meter landfill site in your neighbourhood to save money from transporting garbage out of the city.*

#### **Roles:**

*Local Home Owner*

*Local Business Owner*

*Waste Management Employee*

*Environmentalist*

### **Homeless Shelter**

*The City of Toronto proposes to place a homeless shelter in your neighbourhood that will provide housing for 120 men.*

#### **Roles:**

*Local Resident*

*Local Business Owner*

*Social Worker*

*Homeless Family*

### **New Jail**

*The City of Toronto proposes to construct a new jail in your neighbourhood which will hold 150 youth who have come into conflict with the law.*

#### **Roles:**

*Local Home Owner*

*Local Business Owner*

*Victim's Rights Worker*

*Prisoner's Rights Worker*

### **Bicycle Lanes**

*The City of Toronto proposes to convert all four lane roads in your community into two lane roads in order to provide citizens with bicycle lanes.*

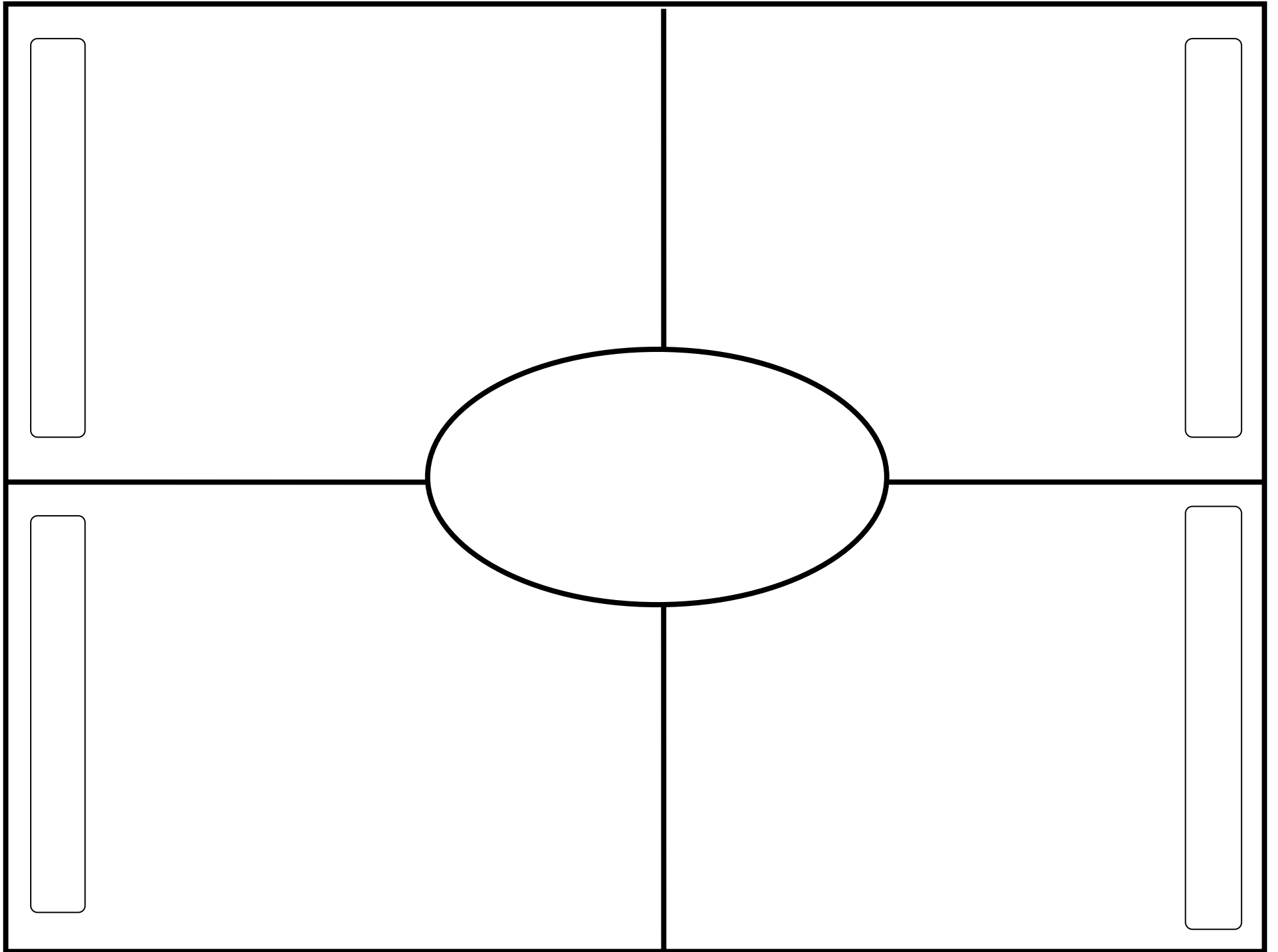
#### **Roles:**

*Local Resident*

*Local Business Owner*

*Cyclist*

*Car Driver*



*The City of Toronto proposes to construct a new 12-story **public housing building** in your neighbourhood that will provide housing to approximately 120 families.*

**Local Resident**

**Local Business Owner**

**Public Housing Employee**

**Single Parent In Need of Housing**

The City of Toronto proposes to construct a 10,000 square meter **incinerator** in your neighbourhood which will convert garbage waste into useable energy.

Local Home Owner

Local Business Owner

Waste Management Employee

Public Health Manager

*The City of Toronto proposes to place a **group home** in your neighbourhood that will provide treatment for 20 youth struggling with addictions problems.*

**Local Resident**

**Local Business Owner**

**Youth Social Worker**

**Parents of Youth In Need of Treatment**

Local Home Owner

Local Business Owner

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construct an above ground  
**rail transit extension**  
through your neighbourhood to  
help citizens access the city and  
ease traffic congestion.

Transit Employee

Public Transit Commuter

*The City of Toronto proposes to place a 100,000 square meter **landfill site** in your neighbourhood to save money from transporting garbage out of the city.*

**Local Home Owner**

**Local Business Owner**

**Waste Management Employee**

**Environmentalist**

*The City of Toronto proposes to place a **homeless shelter** in your neighbourhood that will provide housing for 120 men.*

**Local Resident**

**Local Business Owner**

**Social Worker**

**Homeless Family**

Local Home Owner

Local Business Owner

The City of Toronto proposes to construct a **new jail** in your neighbourhood which will hold 150 youth who have come into conflict with the law.

Victim's Rights Worker

Prisoner's Rights Worker

*The City of Toronto proposes to convert all four lane roads in your community into two lane roads in order to provide citizens with **bicycle lanes**.*

**Local Resident**

**Local Business Owner**

**Cyclists**

**Car Drivers**