

TORONTO FINANCIAL DISTRICT BIA

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February 25, 2015

Councillor Gord Perks
Toronto's Subcommittee on Climate Change Mitigation
100 Queen Street West, Suite A14
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Perks:

RE: TORONTO'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

The Toronto Financial District BIA strongly supports efforts to make Toronto a more resilient city in the face of climate change. **We encourage this subcommittee to prioritize working with the private sector on initiatives that focus on hardening both public and private infrastructure to make Toronto a more resilient city in the face of extreme weather. These initiatives will better ensure Toronto remains a competitive and attractive city for business.**

The area we represent is Toronto's most dense employment centre, including 15% of the city's jobs in our 15 square blocks. An additional 6,000,000 sq. ft. of office space is under construction within a 10-minute walk of Union Station – more than three-quarters of all office construction across the city. As we experience this unprecedented development, **our consultations with key Financial District stakeholders reveal growing concerns regarding the pace with which the public sector is investing in new infrastructure.** Winter and summer storms in 2013 revealed further vulnerabilities that, if left unaddressed, will be detrimental to Toronto's economic competitiveness.

On June 23, 2014 the FDBIA submitted a letter to Parks and Environment committee supporting *Resilient City – Preparing for Changing Climate*, and encouraged the City to approve recommendations outlined in the report, specifically:

- **Escalating infrastructure resiliency to a senior level, such as the City Manager's office, is crucial to ensuring Toronto makes infrastructure resiliency a key competitive advantage when competing for business retention and attraction in the global economy;** and
- **The Toronto Financial District BIA participate as a key stakeholder in future public-private collaborations, such as the WeatherWise Partnership, to ensure that private sector stakeholders have an opportunity to assist in identifying infrastructure priorities, vulnerabilities and risks that could impact the economic viability of the downtown core.**

Infrastructure resiliency is a significant priority for our Financial District, and the FDBIA appreciates the opportunity to support the City on initiatives to mitigate and adapt to impacts of climate change.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at ghumes@torontofinancialdistrict.com.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "GH", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Grant Humes
Executive Director

cc: Councillor Sarah Doucette
Councillor Joe Cressy
Councillor Mike Layton
Jim Baxter, Director of the Environment and Energy Division
Mark Bekkering, Manager, Implementation & Support Environment and Energy Division
David T. MacLeod, Senior Environmental Specialist Environment & Energy Division