

October 10, 2017

Nancy Martins
Clerk
Planning & Growth Management Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Martins:

Re: Toronto Green Development Standard

We are writing to the Planning & Growth Management Committee of Toronto City Council to express our support for the Toronto Green Development Standard (TGDS), and for the City's continuing effort to use and periodically refine the TGDS to help ensure balanced and sustainable development.

We consider ourselves a leading landscape architecture firm in Toronto. We have a large and varied practice. A significant portion of our work relates to projects that are subject to the TGDS, and we have undertaken many projects to which the standard applies.

In our experience, the application of the TGDS to projects contributes to better, more sustainable development in a number of ways. First, it reminds developers of the requirement to balance the needs of the community with the economic imperatives of their projects. Second, it sets objective performance measures that developers, with their consultants, can factor in to the design of their projects at an early stage. Third, it provides standards for sustainable landscape design that are missing in LEED. Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, it provides a framework through which the specific site conditions and design responses of each project can be assessed, negotiated, modified and settled in a manner that balances the need for both growth and sustainability.

There are, of course, challenges in applying an objective standard to a wide array of projects. In this regard, the City's bi-ennial review of the TGDS, which has included consultation with landscape architects, has resulted in a standard that is more clear and effective.

Sincerely,



Janet Rosenberg, OALA, FCSLA, ASLA, IFLA, RCA