



The Hon. Judy Sgro M.P.
Humber River-Black Creek

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Dear John,

I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the re-designation of lands as proposed in Amendment No. 231 in the Downsview Official Plan. It is my belief that this land-use conversion will help to trigger the renewal and revitalization of the Downsview area, generating a host of benefits for the entire community and for the city as a whole.

The decision by Bombardier to relocate its manufacturing facilities means that on-site jobs will be moving – along with the de-commissioning of the runway and airport. For decades, that single employer has been the anchor of employment at Downsview. Its departure requires that we act now with a ready plan to attract new employers and re-imagine the entire community. Too much is at stake to wait until Bombardier has already left.

The approach outlined by Downsview's owners—Northcrest Developments and Canada Lands Company— is both responsible and encouraging. It paints a vivid picture of Downsview's future, one that includes new employers and new jobs, added housing supply including new affordable housing stock, plans for better connecting and moving people in and around the area with better utilization of existing transit hubs, new community infrastructure and a network of parks and natural spaces, creating a green canopy for the northwest of Toronto— anchored by Downsview Park.

Obviously, this vision will not be realized overnight. But the vote on conversion is the first step— a necessary step- to unleash needed momentum toward the achievement of key benefits. In support of all of this, I would also note that the vital process of communicating with and gathering input from local residents has begun already. To date, some 80 groups and hundreds of individuals have contributed their ideas and reactions. More is needed and more is planned. But this clear commitment to local engagement and outreach is encouraging.

As the elected Member of Parliament for Humber River- Black Creek, my focus is on the wellbeing of the local community and its prospects for future opportunity and prosperity. The approach put forward by Downsview's owners will further these important objectives. As such, I hope that City Council will vote in support of this proposal at the upcoming meeting.

I look forward to working with you, Councillor Pasternak and others at City Hall to promote lasting benefits for the people of Downsview.

Sincerely,

Hon. Judy A. Sgro, P.C. MP
Member of Parliament
Humber River-Black Creek
Chair, Standing Committee on International Trade