

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDRY



February 1, 2021

Toronto City Council

By email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Council

Re: Council Agenda Item PH20.8 Stopping the Demolition to Protect Ontario's Heritage at the Dominion Foundry Buildings

We are writing on behalf of Friends of the Foundry, a group of citizens that have been actively raising concerns about the future of the Dominion Foundry in response to the arrival of a demolition crew on January 14th of this year.

We are writing to urge City Council to authorize any necessary legal or practical steps to conserve this important heritage site. We also ask for Council direction that City staff continue to work closely with and assist the Friends of the Foundry, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association and the West Don Lands Committee as the future of the site is addressed through legal channels and through negotiations with the Province.

It is our members who first observed the demolition crew, ascertained that workers were on site to "raze" the buildings and alerted the City through Councillor Wong-Tam. Since that day we have gathered almost 22,000 signatures on a petition¹ to save the buildings, have sent hundreds of letters to the Premier and Ministers and have supported the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association in seeking the temporary prohibition order in Divisional Court.

We are very grateful for the quick and effective action on the part of Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, Chief Planner Gregg Lintern and the Planning staff, Mary MacDonald of Heritage Services, and Rodney Gill and the Legal staff, all of whom have supported our community and helped us respond in time to stop the wholesale destruction of these buildings.

We are also mindful of the tremendous burden that has been placed on the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association which stepped in to urgently commence the legal application that resulted in the temporary order to halt demolition.

We remain committed to engaging in meaningful consultation with the City and the Province on the future of the Foundry Site.

Sincerely,

Friends of the Foundry, represented by:

Asif Hossain

Tim Hurson

Franca Leeson

Suzanne Kavanagh

Cynthia Wilkey

www.respectlocalplanning.com

Note 1. Our online petition can be viewed here:

www.change.org/p/doug-ford-stop-the-demolition-save-the-foundry