

July 11, 2021

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Marilyn Toft

RE: PH25.7 The Future of Yonge and Eglinton's Canada Square: Supporting Midtown Existing and Future Residents' Quality of Life - Special Study Area Report (Ward 8, 12, 15)

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of City Council,

As a member of the Midtown Residents' Association Coalition and the Canada Square Midtown Working Group, the Stanley Knowles Housing Co-operative urges you to vote in favour of the Working Group's recommendations as presented in "*Imagining a New Town Centre for Midtown Toronto*", and in the motion before you today. We stand united with other residents and residents associations, the Toronto District School Board, FoNTRA and our three counsellors in putting this motion forward as a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a development that meets the needs of the community and sets an example of good planning for the rest of the city.

Every priority and recommendation embodied in our report, "*Imagining a New Town Centre for Midtown Toronto*" is reflected in government policy requirements for what such a site should provide: commercial, recreational, cultural and entertainment hub to attract visitors; community services & facilities to fill the gap resulting from ongoing intensification; convenient access to mix of jobs, local services, range of housing, schools, recreation and open space to create a community where people both live and work. Perhaps most significantly, the 2018 Official Plan Amendment 205 (City/Province) requires **a comprehensive planning exercise prior to considering zoning changes to Canada Square.**


Yonge and Eglinton is set to become the second most important intersection in Toronto. The site itself, and the community it serves, deserve Council's strong support for the motion which lays out how the community vision can be accomplished.

The community recently became aware of a secret agreement signed by the City, Oxford and the TTC. The Working Group was told at the beginning of our process that this agreement would not prejudice our ability to make recommendations and create a vision of what the Canada Square site needs to deliver. We very much hope that proves to be the case. Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam said it best at the meeting on June 28 of the Planning and Housing Committee; if it comes to a "tussle" between private interests and public interests, city Council has a duty to defend public interests since it offers the only line of defence for the community. It would a sad day for Council, and a bitter irony if the community's legitimate interests failed to advance due to the actions of a Council whose duty it is to protect those interests.

City Council needs to act decisively and courageously in defence of the Midtown community and endorse this motion. This opportunity to create an innovative plan for Canada Square and a legacy for all concerned cannot be missed.

Yours truly,

Ann King


Member, Midtown working group
Chair, Community Liaison Committee
Stanley Knowles Housing Co-operative