July 9, 2008

Government Management Committee

Attn: Yvonne Davies, Committee Administrator


Dear Councillors,

Introduction
This brief is submitted on behalf of the Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA). FoNTRA is a non-profit, volunteer organization. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The 27 residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not whether Toronto will grow, but how. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.

Background
FoNTRA was founded in February 2001 with one of its main objectives to clarify and strengthen the new Toronto Official Plan (OP). Toward this end, in December 2003, FoNTRA and CORRA along with a group of Willowdale residents' associations (through our agents) initiated discussions with City Staff to clarify and improve the new OP. Over the intervening years, a significant number of clarifications and improvements to the new OP were negotiated and subsequently approved by City Council as well as the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

Discussion
The issue of access to information is of considerable importance to FoNTRA as we believe that improving City Councillors access to information, including the IBMS system, would in turn provide
residents with enhanced access to vital information with respect to proposed developments (among other matters) in their communities; facilitate residents interaction with the City; and in turn allow City Staff and Councillors to be more accountable to the residents of Toronto.

Yours truly,

George Milbrandt
Co-chair, FoNTRA

Cc:
FoNTRA Representatives
Other Interested Individuals

* FoNTRA member organizations are:
  ABC Residents= Association
  Avenue Road & Eglinton Community Association
  Bedford Park Residents= Association
  Deer Park Ratepayers= Group
  Don Mills Residents Inc.
  Edwards Gardens Neighbourhood Association
  Eglinton Park Residents' Association
  FoNTRA Associate Members-at-Large
  Forest Hill Homeowners= Association
  Lawrence Park Ratepayers= Association
  Lawrence Park-Bayview Property Owners= Association
  Leaside Property Owners= Association
  Lytton Park Residents= Organization Inc.
  Moore Park Residents= Association
  North Rosedale Ratepayers' Association
  Oriole Park Association
  St. Andrew's Ratepayers Association
  Sherwood Park Residents= Association
  South Armour Heights Residents' Association
  South Eglinton Ratepayers' and Residents' Association
  South Hill District Home Owners= Association
  Summerhill Residents' Association
  Teddington Park Residents= Association
  West Lansing Homeowners Association
  York Mills Gardens Community Association
  York Mills Ratepayers' Association
  York Mills Valley Association