16 February 2011

Toronto and East York Community Council
c/o Committee Secretary Ros Dyers
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Re: Protecting views of the Ontario Legislative Assembly Building

Jurisdictions around the world protect views of their important houses of government out of respect for their significant histories and symbolic value.

The Ontario Legislative Assembly building (OLA) is one of the most important heritage buildings in the City, and there is increasing community interest in the preservation of view of the OLA building as seen from south of the building.

The City’s Official Plan, through the University of Toronto Secondary Plan and Official Plan Amendment No. 98, (implementing the Bloor Visioning Study) provide policies to protect views of the OLA for developments in the Secondary Plan area and the area north of Bloor and west of Avenue Road.

More comprehensive policies and zoning are required to preserve the views of the OLA and its roofline from the any vantage point along the north side of College Street—that is, the "postcard" view—from incursion above and behind it.

I recommended that:

1) City Council direct City Planning Division staff to report back to the Toronto and East York Community Council on the process for the City to adopt an Official Plan Amendment, including the Official Plan Review and an implementing zoning by-law amendments or other policy or regulatory changes to protect views of the Ontario Legislative Assembly building from any vantage point along College Street at the intersection of University Avenue.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours truly,

Kristyn Wong-Tam
Councillor
Ward 27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale