

Submitted by Councillor Del Grande

CC 20.1.177

March 20, 2012

His Worship Rob Ford,
Mayor of Toronto &
Members of Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

To His Worship Mayor Rob Ford and Toronto City Council,

As MPP's representing the Scarborough area we are disappointed with how the public transit debate at Toronto City Hall has unfolded.

All six MPP's from Scarborough supported the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the Mayor signed with the Ontario Government which enabled the Eglinton Crosstown line to be built underground.

All six Scarborough Liberal MPP's support the extension of the Sheppard subway line to Scarborough Town Centre or beyond. We strongly urge council to consider its options to connect all parts of Scarborough with reliable and timely transit.

All Liberal MPP's from Toronto worked hard to ensure that the \$8.4B the McGuinty Government committed to building public transit to Scarborough was maintained despite significant fiscal challenges.

We regret that this matter did not come before Toronto City Council much sooner when we believe the proposal to build the Eglinton Crosstown line underground would likely have passed through Council.

In voicing our continuing support for the underground transit option, last week all Scarborough MPP's and our Government Caucus unanimously rejected a politically motivated Conservative Opposition Motion to usurp the power of Toronto City Council on this matter. We did this out of respect for local democracy and the autonomy of municipal governments to determine transit priorities.

Our request to the Mayor and Council is to find common ground on this issue. It has been challenging for our Liberal Toronto Caucus to continue to advocate investing \$8.4B in public transit improvements in Toronto with the Mayor and Council being at loggerheads. We urge the Mayor and Council to set aside their differences and come together with one common position for the City of Toronto to rally behind.

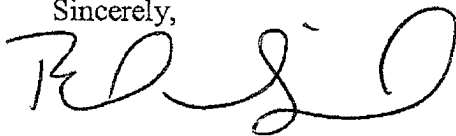
Rto →

Our support as representatives of Scarborough remains behind the underground option for the Eglinton Crosstown line and exploring all options for the extension of the Sheppard subway line.

Moreover, the City of Toronto should seize the opportunity to engage the Prime Minister and his government to support transit expansion in Toronto to extend the Sheppard Subway line underground. It is a well known fact that national governments around the world provide funding for public transit, including subways, in world class cities.

We offer our support to the Mayor and Toronto City Council in an effort to encourage the Prime Minister in recognizing that a "fair" funding contribution from the Federal Government could encourage City Council to support the underground transit option.


Sincerely,



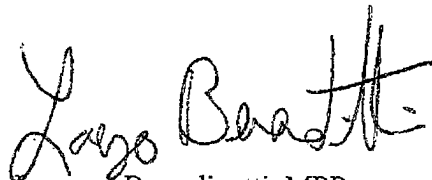
Brad Duguid, MPP
Scarborough Centre



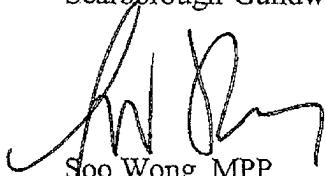
Bas Balkissoon, MPP
Scarborough-Rouge River



Margaret Best, MPP
Scarborough-Guildwood



Lorenzo Berardinetti, MPP
Scarborough Southwest



Soo Wong, MPP
Scarborough-Agincourt



Tracy MacCharles, MPP
Pickering-Scarborough East