



**Ontario Food Terminal Board
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November 27, 2012

The Honourable Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Minister of Infrastructure
Government of Ontario
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON
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Mayor Rob Ford
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
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Toronto, Ontario
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Gentlemen:

This is both a request and support for the position of the City of Toronto in regards to designating the Ontario Food Terminal as a provincially significant employment area – which, when moved from city council should end up within the realm of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The City of Toronto is presently undertaking a review of its Official Plan under Section 26 of the Planning Act and has received, to date, two requests for the conversion of a significant amount of land in proximity to the Ontario Food Terminal that could, if allowed to proceed, will impede upon both the operations at the terminal – Canada's largest such facility – and the enjoyment and livelihood of the proposed residential property owners. While it is well known that the terminal exists and is not going to be moving from its 60 plus year location anytime soon, often times, it is forgotten about its economic and employment value to both the city and the province.

The Ontario Food Terminal is home to more than 80 tenants, 350 farmers from across the province, and more than 6000 buyers – moving an estimated 5.5-million pounds of food throughout Ontario and beyond. The employment factor alone from this very central core of its existence is in the tens of thousands – but, factored into this must be the concept that its significance is outside the scope and scale of most. This facility runs year-round, providing our fellow citizens with access to fresh produce in a timely, economically reduced cost fashion that has endured for decades. We are the stock market of fresh fruits and vegetables in Canada – a crown jewel for both the province and the city – and the impact of residential development would greatly diminish its reliance and importance for all. We will not go into its value for all of the charity and not-for-profit organizations; we will not go into the fact that other jurisdictions, including the United States, envy the foresight and functionality of this facility; we will



not go into the fact that farming and food in the province is a \$39-billion sector – ranking it first amongst all in Ontario.

What we will say is that, through the power of council, and with the approval of this government, we can make a difference now and for future generations to continue to have safe and healthy access to fruits and vegetables year-round, with huge economic upswing for all related. What we will say is that the conversion of these two proposed employment lands to sensitive residential uses in and around the Ontario Food Terminal will greatly diminish its role within this city and this province; it will reduce employment opportunities; and it will reduce the economic value inherent within this facility.

We are, like the City of Toronto, requesting that, as Minister, you utilize the power of Section 2.2.6.8 of the Provincial Growth Plan and identify the employment lands of the Ontario Food Terminal and those lands surrounding it as provincially significant employment areas. It is within the scale and scope of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to ensure that future generations are able to continue to meet the demands of a consuming public, our fellow citizens, in the fashion that has been accorded to Ontarians over the past six decades. This one decision, augmented by both the council and the provincial government, will ensure this happens.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
Ontario Food Terminal Board

James Reaume
Chair