

April 2, 2012

Ms Candy Davidovits
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms Davidovits:

On behalf of CNIB, I am writing in support of the City of Toronto's decision to review the "InfoToGo pillars" initiative balanced against the principles expressed under the City of Toronto's "Vibrant Streets" policy guidelines and the "City of Toronto's Accessibility Design Guidelines."

It is of paramount importance that any proposed changes to the street furniture policy pay close attention to safety for all citizens and must adhere to the City of Toronto's "Vibrant Streets" stated objectives to "promote ease of pedestrian movement and accessibility through the placement and design of furniture," (p 11) and; pay attention to the function of the elements in terms of safety, accessibility and placement," (p 5).

All proposed design and installation for street furniture must adhere to the accessibility and safety principles outlined in the policy, as "an important objective of the Coordinated Street Furniture Program is to design and install street furniture that is accessible to all users and follows the principles of 'universal design,' " (p 20).

All propose changes must include persons with disabilities to ensure their needs are met, "street furniture elements should be designed to accommodate people with disabilities, such as those with physical and visual disabilities or impairment, as well as children and the elderly," (p 20). In addition, the City of Toronto's Accessibility Design Guidelines states: "Preventing and removing barriers means persons with disabilities should be able to access their environment and face the same duties and requirements as everyone else with dignity and without impediment," (p III).

CNIB is a registered charity, passionately providing community-based support, knowledge and a national voice to ensure Canadians who are blind or partially sighted, have the confidence, skills and opportunities to fully participate in life.

Sincerely,



Linda Goldblatt
Executive Director,
Ontario

