June 12, 2013

Mayor and Members of Council  
City of Toronto  
Hand Delivered - Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON  
M5H 2N2

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

Re: Pan Am Field Hockey Centre –  
University of Toronto Back Campus Fields Project

The University of Toronto has received and reviewed the Staff Report dated June 1, 2013 from the City Manager. I am encouraged by the efforts of our Games partners to reach a resolution of this matter so that we can all move forward cooperatively to ensure a successful Games and a lasting legacy for the City of Toronto.

We have reviewed the recommendations of the City Manager and fully support recommendation 1. We do have concerns with recommendations 2 and 3.

On recommendation 2, in order to ensure that the City has complete information and to avoid future confusion or embarrassment for any of our Games partners, it needs to be noted that the Federal funding commitment through the Multi Party Agreement and the Facility Agreement requires that the Field Hockey Centre be maintained for “the useful life” of the field hockey turf.

As we have said many times, after the Games the University will be avoiding the use of biocides and routine watering, and expects heavy multi-sport usage of the fields. The exact life-cycle of the playing fields may therefore be shortened compared to usual estimates, and cannot be predicted with certainty at this time. Pre-specifying a 5 year window for review and possible replacement with alternative surfaces could thus be viewed as flouting federal contribution requirements.

The University regularly assesses its physical assets to ensure they are meeting the needs of the University community. The Field Hockey Centre is no different. As such, the University will regularly monitor the use of the playing fields along with other parameters related to maintenance. As to the fields themselves, upon our determination that deterioration has occurred, i.e. that we are no longer bound by the “useful life” provision, the University is prepared to review and assess all replacement options for the turf. From the standpoint of process, I can readily commit as well that the University
Administration will be very pleased to consult with City staff, and to seek their input formally.

On recommendation 3, the background analysis to this recommendation makes a great deal of sense to us. Indeed, as noted in the City Manager’s report, all surrounding buildings are already historically designated. However, I do note that the overall designation is being advanced ahead of a planning process that is already underway.

Specifically, the University is presently undertaking further heritage studies in support of a new University of Toronto Secondary Plan to implement its recent St. George Campus Master Plan. The University will be working closely with the City in this important endeavour where heritage conservation will be considered comprehensively and in context. We would be neither surprised nor unhappy to arrive at the conclusions set out in the recommendation; but we do respectfully suggest that any motion based on the recommendation might be couched ‘in principle’ to leave room for City planners to complete their deliberations with us.

I thank members of Council and City staff for their consideration of the University’s concerns, and for their continued and valued partnership.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

David Naylor
President

cc B. Clark, Infrastructure Ontario
I. Troop, Toronto Organizing Committee for the 2015 Pan American and Parapan American Games