



April 19, 2013

Mayor Ford and City of Toronto Executive Committee Members
c/o Kelly McCarthy
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Reference E31.2

Dear Mayor Ford and Executive Committee Members,

SAVAC (South Asian Visual Arts Centre) is the only non-profit, artist-run centre in Canada dedicated to the development and presentation of contemporary visual art by South Asian artists. Our mission is to produce innovative programs that critically explore issues and ideas shaping South Asian identities and experiences. We encourage work that is challenging, experimental and engaged in critical discussions on visual forms and processes, and which offer new perspectives on the contemporary world. SAVAC's programming is national in scope, but we are actively engaged with regional and international discussions informing the development of contemporary South Asian art. SAVAC plays a vital role in the visual arts sector in Canada by advocating for South Asian artists and culturally diverse issues and practices.

As an arts organisation, SAVAC is concerned with freedom of expression as well human rights and anti-discrimination. The timely report undertakes the delicate task of establishing the difficult and crucial balance between freedom expression and anti-discrimination policy. With this in mind, SAVAC wholeheartedly supports the Report on Amendments to the City of Toronto Grants policy because it integrates the existing municipal, provincial and federal documents that protect against discrimination and ensures rights and freedom.

Sincerely,

Indu Vashist
Executive Director