



多倫多中華循道會

TORONTO CHINESE METHODIST CHURCH

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2013 JAN 25 AM 8:23

Toronto City Hall
 100 Queens Street West
 Suite 43
 Toronto, Ontario
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January 9th, 2013

Dear Councilor Kelly:

Proposed Changes to the Zoning by-laws

On behalf of Toronto Chinese Methodist Church, we would like to congratulate you for the great work you have been doing in the city. You may be personally aware about the recent changes that have been proposed by the City planners to the zoning by laws. We have gone through the proposed changes thoroughly and feel that these changes are discriminatory and bound to seriously hurt the various faith communities in Toronto.

A general increase in the number of places of worship is an indication that there is a growing spiritual thrust among the people of Toronto. The churches and other places of worship are an inseparable integral part of society in shaping the future of our young people as well as providing comfort to the elderly. Furthermore these places of worship promote morality and spirituality among the people which in turn result in peaceful co-existence of various communities.

Under present proposal the Places of worship have to go through a tedious variance application to plant a new church and "as of right" new lands are not available under a proposed category called "INSTITUTION". We understand the importance of protecting key industrial properties but in the meantime a balanced approach should be taken in locating the places of worship where it is affordable to build churches. Our right to exist, grow and expand in our faith needs to be guaranteed in this democratic country.

Besides, the self-supported places of worship cannot be compared to the other institutions that are funded by the government and municipalities. The benefit of Places of worship cannot be quantified in monetary terms but it should be noted that they help to produce a morally sound and harmonic society.

As you represent us, we would like to ask you to continue to be our voice. We sincerely believe that you would take time to consult the various faith communities, to hear their concerns and vote accordingly before the bill is introduced as the February 2013 meeting of City Council.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hon. Kevin Hon".

Rev. Kevin Hon
Senior Pastor

C.c. Tony Chow, President
Alan Mak, Secretary of the Board of Director