

November 21, 2013



Planning and Growth Management Committee  
City of Toronto

PG28.2.209

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council represents 195,000 women and men who work in every sector of the economy. For 142 years the Labour Council has been addressing the issues of good jobs and sustainable development in Toronto.

The review undertaken by City Staff of the numerous conversion requests has produced a comprehensive report which is front of Planning + Growth Management Committee for its consideration. We believe that the recommendations of Staff should be supported. The recommendations thoughtfully address the planning needs of Toronto, and recognize the very real danger of losing many hectares of employment land in the City.

There are still tens of thousands of good manufacturing jobs in Toronto. Those jobs pay family-supporting wages, and the industrial tax base contributes significantly to the city's revenues. But there is tremendous pressure to convert industrial land to resident or mixed-use in order to achieve a significant increase in land value. Left unchecked, this process would drive many manufacturers out of Toronto, as they become surrounded by residential uses and the restrictions that inevitably flow from the proximity of conflicting uses.

The shutting down of Christie's operation in south Etobicoke is the perfect cautionary tale – a company that for many years objected to encroachment of residential use but finally made a corporate decision to cease fighting and embrace the opportunity for profits from conversion.

I trust that every Councillor on the Committee will endorse the principle of maintaining viable employment lands for future investment in jobs. To support that principle also requires supporting its application in each specific case in order to uphold its integrity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cartwright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Cartwright  
President,  
Toronto & York Region Labour Council

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