April 8, 2013

To: Toronto and East York Community Council
Re: Donation of the public art memorial "Jack's got your back." Stronger Together: The Layton Memorial to the City of Toronto Public Art and Monument Collection.

On May 24, 2012 Toronto Protocol Services, City Clerk's Office received a letter from Olivia Chow, MP and the widow of the late Jack Layton, Leader of the Official Federal Opposition and the NDP, and former Toronto City Councillor, to request the permission to donate a sculpture commemorating Jack Layton's long and dedicated service to Toronto and Canada. The idea for a memorial grew out of a resolution passed at the 2011 Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) convention. A letter from Sandra Clifford, on behalf of Sid Ryan, President of the OFL confirmed the successful fundraising for the memorial by numerous union members and organizations.

The public art memorial is the work of well known Toronto sculptor, David Pelletier (tenured professor at the Ontario College of Art and Design University) and was designed and created in consultation with the Layton family. The public art work made of bronze, entitled "Jack's got your back." Stronger Together: The Layton Memorial, will show a realistic portrait of Jack Layton riding on the back seat of a tandem bicycle. The front seat will be empty, welcoming visitors to sit on the front seat to have their photo taken "with Jack at their back".

If the donation is approved, Parks Forestry and Recreation will install the memorial sculpture in Harbourfront Square Park East in a specially designed landscaped setting with easy access, complete with donor recognition and interpretive panels.

Community Council approval, through their delegated authority on such matters, is required because the proposed donation is in excess of the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture’s delegated approval authority for cultural transactions of up to a value of $100,000.00.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Community Council approve the acceptance of a donation of a public art work from the Layton Family and members of the Ontario Federation of Labour for inclusion in the City of Toronto Public Art and Monument Collection and convey its thanks to the Layton Family and the numerous donors who made contributions to the project.

2. Community Council delegate signing authority to the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture for the deed of gift.