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January 22, 2014

Ms. Marilyn Toft, Council Secretariat - mtoft@toronto.ca
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: City Council Meeting January 29,30, 2014: 2014 Budget - FoNTRA Support for City Planning Division Service Levels and Budget

Dear Mayor Ford, Deputy Mayor Kelly, and City Councillors:

We are writing to express FoNTRA's support for the 2014 Service Levels for the City Planning Division and the 12 additional planning staff provided for in the 2014 Recommended City Budget, and recommend their approval by City Council. The 2014 Service levels include completion of 18 City Building studies, reducing the backlog of Avenue and Area studies, initiating three Heritage Conservation District (HCD) studies, and building the base capacity to initiate and complete five HCD studies per year.

FoNTRA believes this increased capacity to undertake planning studies will contribute to the health, prosperity and well-being of the City. Good planning is based on area plans and policies that are consistently applied. The increased focus on proactive planning along with a positive vision-based approach to planning is to be applauded. We are also encouraged by the identified need to respond to cultural shifts, including more engagement with Toronto residents and communities.

We support greater consistency in planning decisions, especially with respect to interpretation of Toronto's Official Plan policies and Zoning By-laws as well as those decisions made by Committees of Adjustment rather than a focus on negotiating individual development proposals on an ad hoc basis.

Finally, FoNTRA appreciates the new leadership in City Planning and has confidence that the Divisional Strategic Plan 2013-2018, will drive proactive planning and create an overall positive planning vision for the City of Toronto.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Peter Baker
Past Co-Chair, FoNTRA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

George Milbrandt
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner and Executive
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FoNTRA Representatives and Others

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of 28 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 175,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The 28 residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment, and social renewal.