August 8, 2014

Ms. Rosemary MacKenzie
Etobicoke Civic Centre
Main Floor, 399 The West Mall
Toronto, ON M9C 2Y2

Dear Ms. MacKenzie:

RE: Item EY 35.16 Etobicoke York Community Council Meeting (Amendment to Reasons for Listing on City’s Inventory of Heritage Properties – 51 Panorama Court)

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) is a Crown Corporation, i.e., operational enterprise agency, reporting to the Ministry of Economic Development and Employment and Infrastructure (MEDEI) and is wholly owned by the Province of Ontario. IO is responsible for managing the provincially owned and leased real estate portfolio to maximize value for taxpayers and support client ministry long-term program delivery needs.

IO, in its capacity as manager of the MEDEI real estate portfolio, has been actively involved in the completion of due diligence activities leading to the disposition of the provincially owned property known as the Thistletown Regional Centre at 51 Panorama Court. This property was formerly used for the provision of children’s mental health services and is now vacant.

IO is aware of recent initiatives by the Heritage Preservation Services (HPS) branch to include the Thistletown Regional Centre on the City’s list of locally significant heritage properties. It is our understanding that initially the HPS local heritage significance was attached to the main administration building located on the property and that this was approved at City Council at its meeting of May 6 and 7, 2014. However, Council also directed that the Director, Urban Design, City Planning Division identify potential heritage landscape attributes and landmarks in an amended HPS staff report. This amended report was presented and approved at the HPS board meeting of July 17, 2014 and will be under consideration at the August 12, 2014 meeting of the Etobicoke-York Community Council.

IO has concerns with the potential impact resulting from inclusion of landscape elements under the local heritage designation, since this could negatively impact the sale and market value of the Thistletown Regional Centre, in our view. As well, Metrolinx and certain City departments need time to be notified, and understand, potential impacts resulting from inclusion of these elements, given these parties have previously expressed interest in a future Finch LRT stop on the Thistletown property, predicated on a significant number of residential units occurring at this location.
The aforementioned concerns were expressed in phone conversations with the City Planning Department (Neil Cresswell) as well as with HPS (Mary MacDonald). IO also met with HPS staff on August 8, 2014, and both parties were in agreement that the amended report should be deferred from August 12, 2014 to a later date. It was also agreed that HPS will amend their report again to accommodate additional information as it becomes available.

Given the aforementioned support by HPS staff, we would respectfully request that Item EY 35.16 on the Etobicoke-York Community Council agenda be deferred until a later date, hopefully early in 2015. This will allow time for further discussions to occur between IO staff and City staff, and the local Councillor, regarding clarification on the exact location/scope of landscape heritage elements.

Sincerely,

Kayann D’Souza, MCIP, RPP
Project Manager
Sales, Easements and Acquisitions

Direct Tel. #: (416) 212-3746 | Mobile (416) 578-3401

cc: Michael Coakley, Infrastructure Ontario
Jeremy Warson, Infrastructure Ontario
Frank Dieterman, Infrastructure Ontario
Adam Carr, Infrastructure Ontario
Anil Wijesooriya, Infrastructure Ontario
Marybeth McTeague, Toronto Heritage Preservation Services
Mary MacDonald, Toronto Heritage Preservation Services