



ONTARIO  
**SCIENCE**  
CENTRE

CENTRE DES  
**SCIENCES**  
DE L'ONTARIO

## **Presentation To Government Management Committee, Toronto City Council -- May 12, 2014**

The Ontario Science Centre is eagerly looking forward to the arrival of the Eglinton LRT and the subsequent inevitable development of the Don Mills and Eglinton intersection. This will bring significant opportunities for the city, our local community and the Centre. Should a downtown relief line be built, our intersection has the potential to become an even more major hub.

Over the past few years we have heard indirectly of a number of options for the city owned land that we currently use as the overflow parking lot at the Ontario Science Centre. These have ranged from a dual pad hockey arena, to a staging area for the LRT tunnel, to a LRT station and, most recently, back to the hockey arena proposal. It is our understanding that the latter is now being seriously considered by your committee and we believe it is important that we participate in that discussion.

- The Ontario Science Centre's preference would be to participate in a more strategic assessment of development opportunities for the Don Mills and Eglinton area that would consider carefully what form of development would best serve the city, the local community and OSC.
- Should the decision be made to build a dual pad arena on the southwest corner of the intersection, based on the immediate need to replace Don Mills arena by 2019, we will lose that opportunity to consider what will best serve the long term interests of what will soon be a new major hub in our city.
- Our preference is for a planning study to be done, to include all stakeholders including the Ontario Science Centre, that would anticipate opportunities and risks over the next few decades. If the decision is made to build an arena, it will negate the opportunity to consider other options for what the four corners of Don Mills and Eglinton might become.
- We also have a more operational concern with any decision to build a dual pad arena. Since most parents drive children and their large equipment bags to hockey, we must raise the serious question of parking. There is no

public parking in our neighbourhood (paid or on street) other than in the Ontario Science Centre lots. The Centre currently uses the "upper north" overflow lot 25-30 days annually on our busiest days. The loss of those parking spaces is projected to result in a reduction of 30,000 visitors and associated revenue annually (3% of overall visitation to the Centre). Our greater concern however is the demand for parking that will come from arena users. If those cars try to park in our already very busy "lower north" and south lots, it will further reduce parking for our own visitors. This will be a serious operational issue for us, further impacting visitation and earned revenue. We are confident that the City would not want the arena decision to have such a major negative impact on one of Toronto's most visited attractions.

The Ontario Science Centre looks forward to the changes in our local community with the advent of improved transit and would be delighted to work with you, city staff and other interested parties to consider how best to capitalize on these opportunities.

Lesley Lewis  
CEO  
Ontario Science Centre