

Councillor John Parker

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To: Chair and Members - North York Community Council

Date: 12 August 2014

Re: Directional Signage – Aga Khan Museum and Ismaili Centre and Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

My office has received requests from two highly respected cultural organizations in the Wynford Drive area for directional signage to be erected on the Don Valley Parkway and elsewhere guiding visitors to their respective institutions.

The institutions are the (existing) Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the (soon to be opened) Aga Khan Museum and Ismaili Centre. Both organizations are prepared to share space on the signage to be provided and to cover all associated costs on signs bearing their name.

The Aga Khan Museum and Ismaili Centre are due to open in September of this year. The groundbreaking ceremony took place approximately four years ago and was attended by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Prime Minister of Canada. Both spoke at length and the Prime Minister took the occasion to confer on His Highness the honorary Canadian citizenship that had been authorized by unanimous vote of parliament. It is expected that the formal opening in September will be marked by a similarly significant ceremony. Representatives of the Aga Khan Council have advised that having the requested signage in place prior to the opening would be greatly valued.

Transportation Services currently has a moratorium in place for directional signage, while it develops a Wayfinding Strategy, which is scheduled to be completed in the latter part of 2015. Both the Aga Khan Council and Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre have been made aware that if the signage is approved, it may be removed in the future with the rollout of the Wayfinding Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. North York Community Council direct the General Manager of Transportation Services to work with the Aga Khan Shia Ismaili Council for Canada and the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre on implementing directional signage for their respective institutions on Wynford Drive and Garamond Court, respectively, and all associated costs to be borne by the applicants.

Respectfully,

