



May 23, 2014

Chair and Members of the Planning and Growth Management Committee
Toronto City Council
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Re: PG33.17 Greenbelt Urban River Valley Designation in Toronto

Citizens Concerned about the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW) is a non-profit community group formed in 1989 in response to the development proposals for Humber Bay Shores. We are actively involved with the City and TRCA in the creation of new parks and in the improvement and maintenance of existing ones. We also provide monthly bird walks, and most recently are offering nature classes in partnership with the Humber Arboretum in Sam Smith Park.

Our main objectives are to:

- Promote a healthy waterfront environment through preservation, rehabilitation and education
- Seek maximum parkland through preservation of existing parkland on Etobicoke's waterfront and the acquisition of additional waterfront and valley lands
- Promote meaningful citizen involvement in decisions affecting the environment and
- Ensure that any development or redevelopment is compatible with its surroundings in scope and scale.

CCFEW fully supports Toronto City Council's plan to grow the Greenbelt into Toronto by adding public lands in the Humber and Don River Valleys and along Etobicoke Creek.

We call on Toronto City Council and the Province of Ontario to move as quickly as possible to include these public lands in the Greenbelt so that Torontonians can begin visiting the Greenbelt that is in their backyard.

Although this designation would appear not to afford any additional protection to these areas, it adds another layer of protection. This should help guard against the making of special deals to encroach upon these creek and river valleys on a case by case basis.

The world renowned Greenbelt protects environmentally sensitive areas and productive farmlands from urban development and sprawl. The public lands in Toronto's urban river valleys are important

ecological and recreational spaces that connect the Greenbelt to Lake Ontario. Many Torontonians don't appreciate this connection. It's time all these lands were part of the Greenbelt to make it clear how connected they really are.

Sincerely



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cc Councillor DeBaeremaeker
Franz Hartmann, TEA
E. Colacchio, Chair Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition
Councillor Grimes