



Ontario Association of Architects

PW4.1.131

May 29, 2015

His Worship John Tory  
Mayor, City of Toronto  
100 Queen St. W.  
City Hall, Second floor, West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor,

The future of the Gardiner Expressway East stands out as a pivotal decision for City Council, signalling as it does the long term direction for the physical planning of our City. The decision will have consequences beyond the immediate physical environment in question, and goes to the heart of the City we all want -- a City made up of healthy, vibrant communities that allow for an integrated transportation network which includes pedestrians, cyclists and cars.

Notably, the decision greatly impacts the citizens and visitors to the City and has an influence on its sustainable future. Critically, we believe that the goals of the preferred option must equally address the desire to revitalize the waterfront, reconnect the City with the lake, balance our modes of travel, achieve sustainability, and create value. This decision, in short, impacts millions of people, both in the immediate future and for generations to come.

The OAA has read with both interest and concern about the two viable options being considered, and fully supports Waterfront Toronto's and the City's commitment to undertake an environmental assessment (EA) to help identify the preferred solution. It is imperative that the EA fully considers the potential impacts of various options on transportation, urban design, the environment and the economy. The value of architecture and architects cannot be understated in regard to this initiative. The importance of involving the architectural profession in the process and, in particular, in the second phase assessment before the preferred design is identified, is vital to the strength and viability of the City.

The provincial government is currently reviewing Bill 6 which, as drafted, requires design excellence considerations and the involvement of an architect in the design of any major infrastructure project over \$50 million. As the future of the Gardiner is one of the largest infrastructure decisions facing the City of Toronto and therefore the Province, we hope that in the spirit of Bill 6, the City will commit to including architects in this challenging project ahead. Striving for design excellence, on all fronts, is the key to success.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Toon Dreessen', is written over a white background.

Toon Dreessen, Architect  
OAA, MRAIC, AIA, LEED AP  
President

Cc *City of Toronto Board of Health  
Members of Toronto City Council*