

05 June 2015

Mayor John Tory and Council Members
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Council,

Re: Gardiner Expressway and Lake Shore Boulevard East Reconfiguration, Environmental Assessment and Integrated Urban Design Study

We, the undersigned, strongly urge council to approve the option to take down the eastern section of the Gardiner Expressway. This is an opportunity of historical importance for the City to create a spectacular waterfront that speaks to the values and aspirations for our city.

Maintaining the Gardiner works against the transformation of the waterfront into a livable and accessible community and cultural and recreational landscape for everyone.

In our professional opinion, Lake Shore Boulevard can be designed and integrated as a grand urban boulevard integrated into the fabric of the waterfront through design. By removing the Gardiner Expressway, we can create new waterfront access along the Keating Channel, unlock value for public and private lands, and connect the city to the eastern waterfront and Port Lands.

The so-called Hybrid Option will continue to prohibit any form of integration and negatively impact all of the city building initiatives that have made the waterfront an exemplar of urban change, which has caught the imagination of the world.

Think about the long term, and the ultimate goal of creating a vibrant waterfront and river valley and ravine systems that are designed to create an expanded and accessible public realm and green network for the City of Toronto. Think about the potential to develop city-owned land and create north-south linkages for pedestrians from the city to the waterfront and mouth of the Don River.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for you to demonstrate your collective vision and leadership. Make the right decision. Do the right thing, and vote to take down the Gardiner Expressway and create a more sustainable, livable city for the twenty-first century.

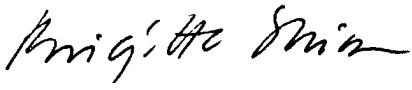
Sincerely,



Bruce Kuwabara
Partner, KPMB Architects



Betsy Williamson
Partner, Williamson Chong Architects



Brigitte Shim

Partner, Shim-Sutcliffe Architects
Professor, Daniels Faculty of Architecture,
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Claude Cormier

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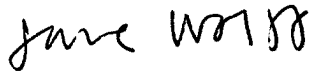
Donald Schmitt

Architect, Principal, Diamond and Schmitt Architects



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Urban Mentor, Former Chief Planner, City of Toronto