



Nov 23, 2015

Economic Development Committee
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
10 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Billy Dertilis
Chair, Danforth Mosaic BIA
207 Danforth Avenue
Toronto ON M4C 1J8

RE: ED8.5 REDESIGNING THE VACANT COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

Dear Chair Michael Thompson and Members of the Economic Development Committee:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Danforth Mosaic BIA Board of Directors in support of amending the existing legislation governing the Property Tax Rebate for Vacant Commercial and Industrial Buildings so that the City of Toronto can ensure that the program aligns with the City's economic growth objectives.

A tax amendment is extremely important to us as a BIA in a developing neighbourhood. We have found that when storefronts sit empty over the long-term, there is a very negative impact on local businesses and communities. Vacant properties don't support the vision for building safe, vibrant and healthy communities that the City has mandated for us.

Our experience with the DECA/WoodGreen Pop-up Shop Initiative within our boundaries along Danforth East demonstrates that there are much better alternatives to properties sitting empty over the long term, and we believe that giving property owners an incentive to fill empty storefronts is a better solution.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at 647-504-8442.

Thank you,

Billy Dertilis
Chair, Danforth Mosaic BIA