



Monday, November 23, 2015

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

Attention: Nancy Martins, Committee Administrator
Email: edc@toronto.ca

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

Re: ED8.5 Redesigning the Vacant Commercial and Industrial Tax Relief program

The Danforth East Community Association (DECA) supports the amendment of existing legislation governing the Property Tax Rebate for Vacant Commercial and Industrial Buildings (VUR) to enable the City of Toronto to define the VUR to align with the City's economic growth objectives.

Within our boundaries, DECA and WoodGreen Communities Services have developed innovative strategies to support temporary businesses and programming to fill the many vacant retail spaces. Legislation to support landlords interested in participating in our programs would help fill vacant retail spaces and activate the existing businesses with a positive outcome for the entire community.

Policies that recognize the negative consequences of long term vacancies on local businesses and communities are required to support efforts to revitalize our neighbourhoods. Every vacant unit filled makes a difference!

Sincerely,

Sheri Hebdon
Chair, Danforth East Community Association
www.deca.to

c.c. Councillor Mary Fragedakis, Ward 29
Councillor Paula Fletcher, Ward 30
Councillor Janet Davis, Ward 31
Councillor Mary- Margaret McMahon, Ward 32
Tina Scherz, WoodGreen
Gay Stephenson, WoodGreen