

From: [Kirsten Grannum](#)
To: [Toronto East York Community Council](#)
Subject: Item TE5.18
Date: Monday, April 13, 2015 11:15:25 PM

Toronto and East York Community Council

2nd Floor, West, City Hall

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Kirsten Grannum

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Re: Intention to Designate Danforth Church (60 Bowden St) as a Heritage building

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my concern about Danforth Church being included on the Heritage Register. I currently work as the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator at the church.

As I sat through the recent meeting with the Heritage board, it felt like our concerns weren't being heard. Instead a completely unrelated church property in Mimico was held up as an example of what we could do with our building if we just tried to think through some different options. We have spent the last 10 years trying to determine all the options that would be feasible for our community. The decision to redevelop our property has been a difficult one for us and many different options were fully explored both by us and by people with which we consulted.

My main focus at the church is running the children and youth ministry. In addition to our weekly children and youth church programs, we run a one week summer camp that has become popular with neighbourhood families with kids beyond our church community

attending year after year. We also have a large group of teens from the neighbourhood who volunteer as counsellors, gaining valuable work experience and obtaining community service hours for high school.

I also have regular interaction with our renters, particularly those that provide programs for children. These programs run throughout the week and on weekends.

We all struggle with working within a space that not only is in disrepair, but also is inefficient and inaccessible for disabled children, youth and families.

This church building is completely inaccessible and the children's space alone has many different levels to navigate, with numerous staircases and steps in between rooms and leading to other key spaces like washrooms and the kitchen.

The property is in a state of decay with crumbling steps leading to the side entrance where these programs are held. There are also frequent leaks into the children's space, including flooding from the washrooms. The water pressure in the building is insufficient, the walls and ceilings are crumbling in the nursery, children's and youth rooms.

This building no longer meets the needs of the community the way it once did. We want to be able to continue to provide quality programs for the children and families we serve, but in a space that is more functional and accessible for everyone.

In light of all of this, we need to demolish our present unworkable building, and construct something that would facilitate our service to the community in general and kids in particular. Designating Danforth Church as a heritage building would make this impossible.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Grannum

Children and Youth Ministry

Danforth Church