



May 1, 2016

Marilyn Toft
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
email: clerk@toronto.ca

Re: City Council May 3 2016 Deferred Items Meeting 18 EX13.2 – Follow up Report on Amendments to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 140, Lobby (“Lobbying By-law”)

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of City Council

FoNTRA is surprised and shocked to see Recommendation 2 of the above report which reads as follows:

“City Council request the City Manager, in consultation with the Lobbyist Registrar and the City Solicitor, to review the requirements for not-for-profit organizations and labour unions, and Fire Services, Toronto Paramedic Services, Toronto Police Service and their associations to register, and report to Executive Committee with amendments to Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 140, Lobbying as required.”)

This idea was previously considered, and firmly (and correctly) rejected in 2012. This time around the idea represents a puzzling diversion from the main intent, direction and focus of the Lobbyist report.

Residents Associations are non-profit organizations and play an important role in ensuring we have democratic government. They should not be treated in the same way as businesses. The proposed inclusion of City Departments and Agencies and their staff associations as lobbyists is also counter to democratic government process.

We strongly recommend that Recommendation 2 of EX13.2 on the May 3 City Council agenda NOT be adopted.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA
[REDACTED]
Toronto, Ontario
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair, FoNTRA
[REDACTED]
Toronto, ON
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of 27 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The over 30 residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.