



May 2, 2016

Dear City of Toronto Councillors:

As Secretary for the Garment District Neighbourhood Association (GDNA), I add my voice to those of other community associations in opposition to the Executive Committee recommendation that a report be drafted on having non-profit groups and community organizations register as lobbyists before they are allowed to contact their local Councillors.

Neighbourhood associations, comprised of engaged citizens, work to improve their communities and this city, presumably a symbiotic goal to that of their Councillors themselves. Communication between both parties is two-way: the Councillors asking for input from and using the associations to disseminate information to their constituents; the associations soliciting opinions and reactions from those same constituents for feedback to their Councillors. In our experience, this relationship is characterized as collaborative, not confrontational. Any requirement that makes the relationship more onerous is bound to compromise this valuable system of mutual benefit.

Please count our Association among those in opposition to any movement requiring us to register as lobbyists when working with our City Councillor.

Regards,

*Valerie Eggertson*

Valerie Eggertson, Secretary, Garment District Neighbourhood Association, [www.GDNAToronto.org](http://www.GDNAToronto.org)

[GDNAToronto@gmail.com](mailto:GDNAToronto@gmail.com) or [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ... 50 Camden Street, Unit 404, Toronto M5V 3N1

*Our mission is to build and protect an attractive, inclusive, safe and sustainable community. Our goals are:*

- *to be the voice for residents, both owners and renters, of the Garment District bounded by Spadina to Bathurst and Queen to King*
- *to be guardians of the District's historic and cultural character*
- *to work with the City, developers and businesses to resolve issues and enrich our community*