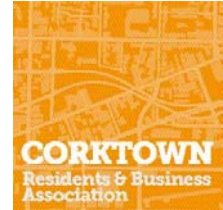


**Corktown Residents & Business Association**  
**351 Queen Street East, P.O Box 82522**  
**Toronto, ON M5A 1T8**



May 19, 2016

Executive Committee  
City of Toronto

Mayor Tory and members of Executive Committee,

**Re: Item EX15.7 MEGA International Events and Expo 2025 Bid**

I am the President of the Corktown Residents & Business Association (CRBA) proudly representing Corktown in the rejuvenation of Toronto's "lower east side". As part of our "mandate", we have also been represented in the many Stakeholder Advisory Groups and public consultations associated with the future of the Port Lands. From that experience, we know how critical the Port Lands are to the long-term future of this City and how much infrastructure will be required to make that happen. Recent experience with the Pan/Parapan Am Games whose Athletes Village was housed in the West Don Lands, part of Corktown, teaches us very clearly the need for a catalyst in such large plans. PanAm was such a catalyst for the West Don Lands and Expo 2025 stands a chance of being the same for the Port Lands.

The staff report before Executive Committee today on "Implementation of the Mayor's Advisory Panel Recommendations for Future "Mega" International Event Bidding and Hosting in the Toronto Region" contains 5 recommendations, the first 4 of which are prudent. The 5<sup>th</sup> however fails to take the leadership necessary to secure a Federal funding commitment, and therefore effectively closes the door on what could be a fantastic opportunity for Toronto. We agree that care must be taken but to take no further action until the Federal Government confirms its support is not showing the leadership that the potential host City must take if Expo 2025 is to happen in Toronto.

It does not require staff time or budget at this stage. And a major part of the eventual cost is borne by the various countries who will take part, not by Toronto, and yet Toronto will be left with new infrastructure to seed the future of the Port Lands. Clearly this would need to be evaluated further but we need to get to the next stage in order to do that.

While it is only potential at this point, it is too great a potential not to take it to the next step.

We urge Executive Committee to recommend to Council to take the lead and show the Federal Government that there is strong support in Toronto for the bid.

Respectfully,

per 

**Michele Cummings**  
President, CRBA  
president@corktown.ca

cc: CRBA Board  
Councillor Pam McConnell