

THISTLETOWN MULTI-SERVICE PETITION 2016

I am Suzan Hall, a resident of the community and Vice Chair of Thistletown Multi-Service Centre Board of Management. As a community member back in 1984, I chaired the committee to retain Thistletown Middle School for community use rather than having it sold to developers at the time. We were successful in that Tom Riley, Commissioner of Parks for the City of Etobicoke and Sam McKinley, Treasurer for the Board of Education for the City of Etobicoke recommended to their respective bodies that the City lease the facility for the community. This was supported and the City has been leasing Thistletown Multi-Service Centre since 1986.

Along with our Chair, the Board of Management and our local Councillor we worked in 2011 to have the City of Toronto recognize the value and contribution the Thistletown Multi-Service Centre made to the community, as at that time the City was prepared to discontinue the lease. We did our research, proved its value and were successful in retaining the building. We thought that would be the last time we would have to conduct such a fight to retain this building for the community. We were wrong.

As a result, as soon as we heard the TDSB wanted to declare 925 Albion Rd. surplus and sell it we put together a flyer advising the community of the situation. Over 150 people attended the TDSB public meeting on this issue and without exception they either wanted TDSB to retain the building and continue leasing to the City of Toronto, or if it was to be sold....to sell only to the City of Toronto for its current use.

- * The TMSC Board of Management also created a petition, and in approximately a one-month period, through word of mouth, obtained over 1,000 signatures in support of retaining the TMSC facility for its current community use.

The petition that we will present to you initially was asking the Public School Trustees to continue the lease of the Centre to the City of Toronto over the long term so the services provided would carry on.

- 1,043 people have signed the petition showing the support in the community for the continued access to Thistletown Multi-Service Centre. Superintendent Taverner from 23 Division asked to sign our petition. This is not the time to remove resources from our community.
- Many seniors, who have provided their personal information on the petition, also want to be assured that the petition will not be utilized by anyone for any other purpose than for TMSC.

Please accept our written comments on behalf of the community along with the petition and a copy of the 1896 and 1973 Trustee Acts with regards to the Village Green.

As Joanna stated, the Thistletown Multi-Service Centre Board of Management fully supports the recommendation EX16.21 No. 2a that relates to 925 Albion Road (Thistletown Multi-Service Centre) that is before the Executive Committee today. We ask that you approve this recommendation and negotiate the purchase of the Centre by the City of Toronto.

Suzan Hall

Vice Chair, Thistletown Multi-Service Centre Board of Management