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October 25, 2016

Dear Mayor and Members of Executive Committee,

RE: EX18.7 Expo 2025 – Feasibility Considerations

For the past 48 years Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS) has been providing services to immigrant and refugee communities in the GTA, and we currently serve over 20,000 clients each year in Toronto and York Region. Our mission is to empower newcomers in settling and integrating as contributing members of Canadian society.

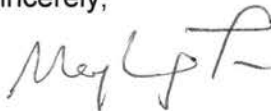
I believe that Expo 2025 holds an incredible value for the immigrant and refugee communities of Toronto. Expos are about innovation and technology, and they are also about sharing the values, experiences and culture of the host country with the rest of the world.

The diversity that exists in Toronto is unique and we are often seen as a model for other cities. Every year we welcome thousands of immigrants and refugees to live, work and thrive in Toronto and Canada. As Canadians, we know that immigrants and refugees are an essential part of Canada's future.

We know that Expo can bring lasting social and economic benefits for our communities across Toronto, including affordable housing, new cultural and community space, and employment that can be prioritized for our immigrant and low-income communities. But, Expo can do even more. It is an opportunity to celebrate our culture of diversity and inclusiveness. It is an opportunity for our youth to dream about the future of our planet and how they fit within it. It is an excellent opportunity for Toronto to put itself on the international stage.

CICS hosted an event for the Chinese community and Scarborough community last week to learn about Expo 2025. We had an enthusiastic turnout, many questions were raised and answered, and the support for Expo 2025 was palpable. There are many immigrants in Toronto who have participated in and experienced Expos in other countries and have witnessed the legacies that continue to contribute to the success of the host city and country. Therefore I urge the Mayor and City Council to bring Expo 2025 to Toronto. It will be a great impetus for Toronto to flourish.

Sincerely,



Moy Wong-Tam
Executive Director