



October 1, 2017

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Attention: Marilyn Toft

**RE: EX27.8 Toronto Ravine Strategy**

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of City Council

This is express our overall support for the Toronto Ravine Strategy report. It represents a considerable amount of work involving multi-divisions of the city, plus an advisory committee of which FoNTRA was a member. However we are disappointed with the lack of progress on a couple of key aspects.

First, the need for improved access to the ravines remains as a critical issue for residents of the city. Many communities are located on the edge of a main river system, such as Thorncliffe Park (East Don), where the only access is a road that runs directly down the ravine slope, making access to the valley floor (ET Seton Park) virtually impossible except by vehicle. This issue has been raised continually in public consultations, but there appears to be little movement. Innovative solutions should be investigated where appropriate, such as, for example, a funicular at Castlefrank Subway Station to facilitate access to the valley floor. In fact this idea is not new, but was suggested at least 10 years ago by a former Mayoral candidate.

Second, we are disappointed that the report does not include a ranked capital plan in order to move forward quickly. In addition there appears to be an interest in relying on the philanthropic sector for capital funding. We remain skeptical that this funding will materialize in any significant quantities to effect the scale of improvements that are needed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel  
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

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Toronto, Ontario  
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Cathie Macdonald  
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

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Toronto, ON  
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**The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA)** is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The 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.