

# CD23.3.1

**From:** [Sara Ehrhardt](#)  
**To:** [Community Development and Recreation Committee](#); [Oriotech Solutions Inc](#); [Ryan McDonnell](#); [Katharine Harvey](#); [David Darling](#); [Natasha Graham](#); [Angie Law](#)  
**Cc:** [Councillor Pasternak@toronto.ca](#); [Councillor Fletcher](#); [Councillor Cressy](#); [Councillor Ford](#); [Councillor Mihevc](#); [Councillor Wongtam](#); [Councillor McMahon](#); [Mayor Toronto@toronto.ca](#)  
**Subject:** For October 20th CDRC Item CD23.3 : Letter from Community Members of the SH Armstrong Pool Working Group  
**Date:** Friday, October 20, 2017 3:41:58 PM

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October 20th, 2017

Dear Councillors:

We are the community members on the S.H. Armstrong Pool Working Group. We would like to echo the final staff report that has made a strong recommendation to bridge pool programming for the Winter session at SH Armstrong Community Centre.

Since our pool reopening was announced, our community came together and worked with city staff and the TDSB to reach out across social media, school and community centres, farmers markets, health centres, local businesses, nearby shelters and community housing - all with a focus on aligning programming to community needs and raising awareness that pool programming had returned. This fall saw over 550 people register for our community pool, more than double any previous session, confirming our community's ongoing interest and commitment in the SH Armstrong pool. We are incredibly proud in particular to see the number of young children and vulnerable adults that are now accessing crucial learn-to-swim programming and healthy recreation opportunities.

Through our community outreach we have learned that although our community lies steps from Lake Ontario, there are many who still do not know how to swim, a crucial life skill that we view as a right, not a privilege, of every person in this city.

We see this staff recommendation as essential to keep momentum - at this stage a disruption in programming would have a substantial negative community impact and would affect the progress we have made in outreach to vulnerable populations, particularly to newcomer women, youth, and vulnerable adults, in accessing these critical city programs.

As outlined in our previous submission to this committee, we remain of the view that city funding to SH Armstrong Pool should be reinstated on a permanent and ongoing basis. We feel that continued city investment in this aquatic community hub and shared community resource is an important and cost-effective contribution to enhancing the safety and quality of life for the many and diverse residents of our community. We would ask that, in line with staff recommendations, programming continue at SH Armstrong into the Winter Session.

We would also request that our working group continue to work together as needed throughout 2018. Since forming in May 2017 our working group has fostered linkages across our diverse community, city staff and the TDSB to refine programming in line with community needs and make modest facility improvements. We have areas for future work and see a need for a continued working group structure to facilitate collaboration across the many stakeholders that form part of the SH Armstrong/Duke of Connaught community.

We thank you for your support.

Yours truly,

The community members of the SH Armstrong Pool Working Group:

Sara Ehrhardt, community co-chair

Shawn Pinto and Ryan McDonnell (Hope Shelter liaisons)

David Darling

Natasha Graham

Katharine Harvey

Angie Law

Applegrove Community Complex

(sent via email)