

May 26, 2017

Councillor Mark Grimes  
Chair, Etobicoke York Community Council  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West, Suite C48  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**RE: Emery Village's First Nations Park**

Dear Chair Grimes,

I am pleased to share an exciting project that the Emery Village BIA (Business Improvement Association) is developing with three Indigenous bands and staff from the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry & Recreation division.

As you may be aware, Emery Village has a rich history, much of which was formed by our Indigenous peoples. There is a parcel of land currently occupied by a hydro right-of-way – located south of Finch Avenue West, on the east side of Weston Road – that has been identified by the BIA as an ideal site to develop a park to honour and celebrate the First Nations. This proposal has been developed in a collaborative effort with the Huron Wendat, Six Nations of the Grand River, and Mississaugas of the New Credit.

This First Nations Park will be an attraction unto itself as an interactive green space for the public. The park will also be a part of a bike path that connects the northwest part of the city to downtown via the Humber River system.

Given that this year is the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Canada, it is timely that such a proposal has been brought to my attention. In addition, the month of June celebrates Aboriginal History Month. Therefore, I would like to formally request that this park proposal be brought forward as a new item of business for the upcoming Etobicoke York Community Council meeting. I have attached a letter from the Emery Village BIA for further detail.

My recommendation is as follows:

***Etobicoke York Community Council direct the General Manager of Parks, Forestry & Recreation to report back by the September 6, 2017 meeting with a status update on the negotiations with Hydro One for the use of the indicated hydro right-of-way for a First Nations Park.***

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Councillor Giorgio Mammoliti  
Ward 7, York West