



Ontario Association of  
**Landscape Architects**

A component organization of the  
Canadian Society of Landscape Architects

March 21, 2018

Mayor John Tory and Toronto Councillors  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

**RE: REimagining Yonge Street**

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors,

The Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA) is the self-regulating body for the profession of Landscape Architecture in Ontario. The OALA promotes public understanding of the profession and the advancement of the practice of landscape architecture. In support of the improvement and conservation of the natural, cultural, social and built environment, OALA undertakes activities to improve the quality of life and the environment for all Ontarians including the public realm in urban centers. Our activities include promoting the benefits of landscape architecture to governments and professionals who develop standards and policies. As you may be aware, representatives of the OALA helped guide the development of the Complete Street Guidelines and many landscape architects are employed by the City contributing to the standards and policies concerning the public realm.

The OALA was notified of this project by our member who is also a member of Toronto's Urban Design Review Panel. We value and applaud the efforts that the City has undertaken to provide a safer and better use of our urban streets. The proposal to widen the pedestrian space within the width of the road right-of-way will provide opportunities for more community engagement and a sense of safer, healthier community. The encouragement for planting trees and other greening opportunities will surely support the City's initiative to increase the urban tree canopy which supports a healthier environment. Streets are meant not only for automobiles but also for pedestrians to get from point A to point B. By providing those opportunities for multiple types of transportation, the City can lead in the mitigation of climate change and effects of urban pollution of all types.

We encourage the City of Toronto to continue to discuss this project and future projects within the public realm with the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects. Our core values for public spaces remain to provide for safe, healthy and inclusive spaces to the citizens of the City. The public realm is our passion and part of our core business.

Sincerely,  
ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doris Chee', written over a white rectangular background.

Doris Chee OALA, CSLA  
OALA President

Promoting, improving and advancing the profession of landscape architecture and maintaining standards of professional practice and conduct consistent with the need to serve and to protect the public interest.