



June 4, 2018

Kristyn Wong-Tam  
Chair  
Toronto and East York Community Council

Dear Chair:

**TE33.3 - Changing Lanes – Accessibility Problems for Seniors**

On June 6, Community Council will be asked to approve laneway suites, without all of them having adequate access for seniors or disabled people. This is despite the fact that the initiative is explicitly aimed at helping seniors to “age in place”.

There is risk to seniors in winter, forced to walk down an icy, rutted vehicular laneway, whether plowed or not, instead of a pedestrian walkway to the street, which is being required for most, but not all properties.

Changing Lanes continues to exempt approximately the first dozen homes on a laneway from providing a walkway. Only corner lots should be exempted. Laneway suites there normally have direct access to a side street.

Staff have done an exemplary job of public consultation but, oddly, we have not seen any formal consultation with Seniors or Disabled representatives. This should take place, if not now, then when the project is reviewed.

Secondly, as argued in our attached May 24 email and the lawyer’s review attached to the April 30 TEYCC submission by the ABC Residents Association, the walkway should be in the bylaw as well as being mentioned in staff reports.

Yours truly,

Al Kivi,  
Chair, SERRA Working Group on Neighbourhoods

**Distribution:**

ABC Residents Association

Harbord Village Residents Association

FoNTRA – Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations