



June 17, 2020

To Chair and Members of the Executive Committee

Re: Item EX14.1 CaféTO – Increasing Outdoor Dining Space for Toronto Restaurants and Bars

York Quay Neighbourhood Association (YQNA) has been representing residents on the densely populated Waterfront from Yonge Street to Spadina Avenue for the past 17 years. We are writing in support of St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association's letter (EX14.1.1) on the same item before the Committee.

The Waterfront has unusually high pedestrian traffic because of sports arenas, boating and many other attractions. As well, many residents walk to Union Station or jobs in the downtown core, and this rush hour pedestrian traffic must be accommodated. It is most important that adverse impacts on pedestrians be avoided, since they too must keep the prescribed distance from each other. That sets physical limits on how much restaurants and bars with existing patios abutting the public boulevards can expand.

We have no opportunity for curb lane parklets, since Queens Quay West and Robertson Crescent each have only two traffic lanes, Lower Simcoe Street has bike lanes, and York Street carries high traffic volumes accessing the Gardiner Expressway. When the current PATH tunnel construction job is finished, and York Street is returned to the public, the outdoor patio at E11even Restaurant at 15 York may be re-established. This must be done with great care.

We do have a City-owned parking lot at 338 Queens Quay West, just west of Rees Street, and another one owned by Oxford Properties at 30 Bay Street. These could potentially host outdoor dining areas associated with nearby restaurants like Harbour 60. There is also the as-yet undeveloped park at the foot of York Street beside a new restaurant at 88 Queens Quay West.

Add to that, Harbourfront Centre has restaurants and bars on the property, including the Amsterdam Brewhouse and other concessions.

We will be happy to see these establishments open or get back in business, with the proper safeguards for nearby residents in the numerous high rise buildings. Noise from music played to the patio audiences will be a key concern. In the past, noise complaints have not received much in the way of response from the staff of MLS. Historically, many restaurants and bars have played music at very loud levels, forcing customers and staff to shout to be heard. Shouting is a very bad idea during the COVID-19 pandemic, so any music must be played at low levels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Sch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Co-chair, YQNA