



January 28, 2020

Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Dear Mayor Tory and members of Council,

RE: MM14.8 Protecting LGBTQ2S+ Small Businesses and Cultural Space

We are writing to express our support for Member Motion 14.8 by Kristyn Wong-Tam (Protecting LGBTQ2S+ Small Businesses and Cultural Space) and to urge Council to support the recommendations outlined in the associated report.

ACO's interest is ensuring that heritage buildings continue in active use, contributing to the vibrancy of their communities. We also recognize that the occupation by independent small business of the fine grained small properties along our Main Streets is an important tradition that not only contributes to Toronto's economic and cultural vitality, but also has associated historical value.

Last year, we devoted our annual symposium to the topic Toronto's Disappearing Main Streets: Buildings and Businesses. We had many different perspectives on accelerating loss of space for small businesses and the impact that is having across Toronto. One of the key findings was the need for business owners to have stable occupancy costs. Provincial intensification and tax policies are rapidly wiping out those places of opportunity.

While this motion is directed specifically to the LGBTQ2S+ community, we appreciate the note that similar factors are affecting businesses across the city. We hope that this motion will trigger an examination of the complex factors at work and find solutions that may be applied in many neighbourhoods.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Zambri
President ACO Toronto Branch