



York-Eglinton Business Improvement Area (BIA)

February 25, 2020

Toronto City Council
Office of the City Clerk
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: **Delay of the Eglinton Crosstown by the Province's Metrolinx (Motion MM16.8)**

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Council;

On behalf of the York-Eglinton Business Improvement Area (BIA) Board of Management and the 200 commercial property owners and small business tenants along Eglinton Avenue West, we would like to strongly endorse motion MM16.8 put forward by Councillors Mike Colle and Josh Matlow.

The announcement by Metrolinx that the opening of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT will be delayed until well into the year 2022 came as a real shock to all our BIA members. Our remaining small businesses along the Eglinton Crosstown route will now experience an even greater length of disruption than they have originally planned. The time is now for the Province of Ontario and Metrolinx to come to the table and provide compensation to local businesses.

As you know, the City of Montreal in 2019 launched a financial assistance program for retail, rental and service outlets affected by major transit construction projects in that city. In the Montreal example, businesses submitted GST records from before and during construction. They were able to claim for losses after the first 15% drop in sales, and were fully compensated up to an annual cap of \$30,000. We believe this type of program should also be replicated by the Province and Metrolinx to financially compensate businesses along Eglinton Avenue.

The York-Eglinton BIA is ready to work with Toronto City Council and meet with the Minister of Transportation, Caroline Mulroney and Metrolinx Board Chair, Donald Wright to implement the Eglinton West Small Business survival plan.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Alampi".

Nick Alampi
Chair, Board of Management
York-Eglinton BIA

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