



JENNIFER
MCKELVIE

City Councillor
Scarborough-Rouge
Park
Ward 25

July 21, 2020

Attn: CreateTO Board of Directors

RE: RA14.3 Proposed Land Lease for Part of the City-Owned Property at 311 Staines Road to the Tamil Community Centre (Ward 25)

Board Members,

I am writing in support of recommendations by the Chief Executive Officer of CreateTO to leverage the value of the City-owned south parcel of land at 311 Staines Road. This is an important city-building opportunity to support the construction of a long overdue cultural and recreational hub for Tamil Canadians and for the residents of north-east Scarborough.

This facility can provide much needed community space, hosting both recreational programming and social services. I have met with the proponents several times and am impressed by their commitment to create this project for both the Tamil community and the broader community. This facility can improve community cohesion and foster greater intra- and inter-community dialogue. Underserved communities currently facing social exclusion will be able to access language services and culturally competent services that will benefit their well-being.

I believe it is vitally important that we ensure our suburban communities are vibrant, livable and sustainable. This project shares the goal of building resilient communities by improving local access to parklands, recreational facilities, cultural events and public services related to health, safety and well-being.

This project aligns with the recommendations outlined by the City of Toronto's Newcomer strategy and the Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy. These strategies enable our City to better address health, poverty and civic exclusion and ensure that each of our 140 neighbourhoods can succeed and thrive.

I respectfully recommend that the Board adopt the Chief Executive Officer of CreateTO's recommendations in order to advance this important work.

Sincerely,



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