



1885 Wilson Avenue, Suite 209
Toronto, ON M9M 1A2
info@emeryvillagebia.ca
www.emeryvillagebia.ca
T: 416.744.7242

October 19, 2021

Jonathan Canchela
Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee
aaac@toronto.ca

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee

Re. AA14.2 -Indigenous Heritage Engagement Project
On October 22, 2021.

Emery is primarily known for its rich modern history of hard-working immigrants and steadfast entrepreneurial spirit. But many may not know that its history dates back much further. In fact, the lands upon which over 3000 commercial, industrial, and retail establishments operate their businesses today were travelled by the Indigenous peoples of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee and the Mississauga First Nations as early as the 15th century. In 2015, the Emery BIA embarked on a journey to share this part of Emery's story, and to preserve 11,000 years of culture and history, by creating Toronto's premier official First Nations Park: The Unity Walk.

The Unity Walk is to be developed within the existing Hydro One power corridor in the south-east corner of Finch Ave W and Weston Rd in Toronto. The site holds the heritage designation from the Province of Ontario, Ak Gv-12. It was historically situated on a small tributary of the Humber River, and evidence gathered from surrounding archeological sites provide proof of the long and unbroken connection of the three Nations living, at different times, in the immediate area and beyond.

The Unity Walk was designed in collaboration with the three First Nations (Mississaugas of the Credit, Huron Wendat Nation, Six Nations of the Grand River). It will feature three separate pathways honouring the three Nations and will also link to a fourth cycling/walking trail intended to connect to the rest of Toronto's cycling network. Each pathway will display cultural highlights and depict daily activities of their ancestors. These pathways will lead to a centrally located outdoor community gathering space, also representing the three First Nations.

The Unity Walk has garnered support from all three First Nations and Toronto City Council, and the Ontario Historical Society. It is currently going through the process of approval for land use with Hydro One (the Provincial agency landowner) through collaboration and support with the City of Toronto.

The BIA is pursuing this exciting project to help raise awareness of, and link visitors with, the Indigenous culture that helped mould our history and create our present. The Unity Walk can help to continue improving connectivity and encouraging tourism, and Outdoor Education in Emery. This placemaking initiative will also provide businesses and the community at large with much needed accessible outdoor green space for both employees and residents to enjoy.

Please consider incorporating it into your Indigenous Heritage Engagement Project. I look forward to working together to further explore how our projects can complement one another.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Farina', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sandra Farina
Executive Director
Emery Village BIA
sandra@emeryvillagebia.ca

Attachments (5):

- Written submission to City of Toronto from Emery Village BIA
- 11,000+ years of history in Emery & Ak Gv-12 Site
- (2) Concepts of the First Nations Park-The Unity Walk
- Letter of Support-Ontario Historical Society
- Letter of Support-Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation
- Letter of Support- Huron-Wendat Nation
- Letter of Support-Six Nations Council

**11,000+
years of
history in
Emery**







UNITY WALK OPTION 1

UNITY WALK TORONTO, ONTARIO
MAY, 2021

STUDIO **fla**



UNITY WALK OPTION 2

UNITY WALK TORONTO, ONTARIO
MAY, 2021

STUDIO **fla**



34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2
416.226.9011 | www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

June 17, 2021

Emery Village BIA Board of Management
ATTN: Sandra Farina, Executive Director
Emery Village Business Improvement Area
1885 Wilson Ave. Ste. 209
Toronto, ON M9M 1A2

Re: Support for The Unity Walk

Dear Ms. Farina and Members of the Emery Village BIA Board of Management,

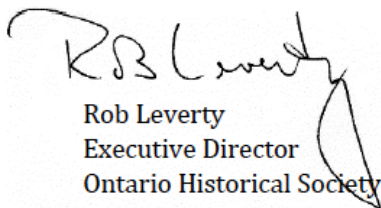
On behalf of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS), I am writing to you in support of the Emery Village BIA and your championing to create Toronto's official First Nations park: The Unity Walk.

The OHS, founded in 1888, is a not-for-profit corporation and registered charity. The OHS is a non-government group bringing together people of all ages, all walks of life, and all cultural backgrounds interested in preserving and promoting some aspect of Ontario's history.

The OHS commends the work of the BIA, that since 2015 has been working hard to create a green, community gathering space that recognizes the 11,000-year Indigenous history and ongoing contribution of the three First Nations: Mississaugas of the Credit, Huron Wendat Nation, and Six Nations of the Grand River, that have all inhabited the land we now call Toronto. The OHS congratulates the BIA on their partnership with the three First Nations and the City of Toronto to create a park that celebrates this history, and supports the BIA's ongoing work to secure the approval for land use from the Province of Ontario.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at tel: 416.226.9011 or by email: rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Leverty
Executive Director
Ontario Historical Society



Mississaugas of The New Credit First Nation

2789 Mississauga Rd.,
R.R. 6 Hagersville, Ontario N0A 1H0

Tel. 1-905-768-1133
Fax 1-905-768-1225

EMERY PARK PROJECT – SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE

February 7, 2017

Sandra Farina, Executive Director
Emery Village BIA
1885 Wilson Avenue, Suite 209
Toronto, ON M9M 1A2

Dear Ms Farina:

On behalf of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, I am pleased to express our support in principle for the Emery Park project as it relates to our First Nation.

To date, our meetings with Sutherland and Terraplan have progressed well. We appreciate the BIA's efforts and are pleased to continue working collaboratively in this regard.

Sincerely,

Chief R. Stacey Laforme
Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation



NATION
huronne-wendat

255, place Chef Michel Laveau
Wendake (Québec) G0A 4V0
Téléphone : (418) 843-3767
Ligne sans frais : 1-877-712-3767
Télécopieur : (418) 842-1108

KONRAD H. SIOUI

GRAND CHEF DE LA NATION HURONNE-WENDAT
GRAND CHIEF HURON WENDAT NATION

Wendake, 17 novembre 2016

Madame Sandra Farina
Directrice executive
Emery Business Improvement Area
1885, avenue Wilson, bureau 209
Toronto, ON M9M 1A2

Madame,

Kwe,

Le projet Emery Park commence à prendre forme et représentera un lieu de partage culturel, spirituel et social des plus stimulants pour les trois Nations qui y sont associées ainsi que pour la population canadienne.

La Nation huronne-wendat accueille favorablement cette idée et souhaite y travailler de près. Cette démarche permettra à la culture, à l'histoire et aux talents wendat de briller par leur force et leur vivacité. De plus, le concept de parc fournira aux trois Nations touchées l'occasion de parler d'elles, à leur façon, dans un but de partage, de tolérance et d'ouverture.

Les Hurons-Wendat désirent être impliqués directement, et ce, à chacune des étapes de ce projet rassembleur. L'emplacement choisi pour sa réalisation se trouve sur la terre foulée par nos ancêtres et ce lien intemporel nous interpelle profondément. Je suis donc en attente de la réception des documents pertinents et actualisés qui y sont rattachés.

Recevez, Madame, mes salutations les plus cordiales.

Önenh!

Konrad Sioui
Grand Chef



January 26, 2017

Mary Di Mambro
Vice President of Public Relations
Sutherland Corporation Ltd.
10520 Yonge Street
Unit 35B, Suite 338
Richmond Hill ON
L4C 3C7

Dear Ms. Di Mambro:

Re: Emery Park

This letter is to provide support for the Emery Village Business Improvement Area (EVBIA) for the creation of Emery Park located on Weston Road and Finch Avenue in Toronto. The Sutherland Corporation Inc. is representing the EVBIA in this initiative.

This support is for the overall concept only and does not constitute an approval for the final site plan. Six Nations is in support of the general concept which includes:

- location of the berms
- location and length of the pathways
- location of the gathering circle

Do not hesitate to contact Joanne Thomas, Consultation Supervisor, Six Nations Lands and Resources, at 519-753-0665 or email her at jthomas@sixnations.ca if you have any other questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Chief G. Ava Hill
Six Nations of the Grand River