



contactfostra@gmail.com

By email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

May 4th, 2021

City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Dear City Council Members,

Re: Ex 23.3 Provincial Transit-Oriented Communities Program

FoSTRA is a federation of residents' associations that spans five downtown Toronto wards and encompasses in excess of 400,000 residents. We are committed to ensuring a livable, sustainable and well-functioning city, and in this respect, fully support the initiatives put forward to the Executive Committee by the West Don Lands Committee (WDLC) and the St Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SNLA) to engage in urgent and meaningful public consultations regarding the development of the First Parliament site.

Early indications are that the accelerated acquisition of the First Parliament site by Metrolinx will not provide the necessary consideration of the years of planning that have taken place in the community on this redevelopment. Available land that can be purposed for pressing community needs is becoming more and more scarce, and we cannot squander this opportunity in favour of rapid development and easy revenues.

To that end, FoSTRA echoes the appeal from these organizations and others that have worked so diligently in defining the immediate and future needs of their vibrant and growing community, specifically by ensuring;

1. The immediate implementation for open public consultation and dialogue to seek community input, on the overall development plans submitted by Infrastructure Ontario. In this, we support the West Don Lands Committee request to Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario to strike a community stakeholder process.
2. The redevelopment proposal for this site includes the vision of the community-driven process developed over the last two decades, specifically to include the provision for a heritage interpretation, a regional library space, affordable rental housing allocation of no less than 30% in accordance with the City's current policy, as well as public open green spaces that are lacking in these areas. All these aspects are so important for the overall quality of life of families that will be close to the Corktown station transit-hub.

We trust that the City will continue to advocate for responsible and responsive development of the First Parliament site and ensure that the community's interests are fully respected by supporting the WDLC's and SLNA's participation in all relevant discussions with Infrastructure Ontario, Metrolinx and the City of Toronto.

Respectfully yours,

Rick Green
Acting Chair, FoSTRA