

**From:** [Cara Chellew](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** My comments for 2021.GL23.13 on June 8, 2021 City Council  
**Date:** June 7, 2021 11:15:47 AM  
**Attachments:** [Washrooms for all.pdf](#)

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the June 8, 2021 City Council meeting on item 2021.GL23.13, Amendment to the Non-Competitive Blanket Contract Number 47023034 for the Provision of Portable Washrooms and Sinks in City of Toronto Parks

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

The Toronto Public Space Committee is a volunteer collective of people who are passionate about public space. Through advocacy, direct action, and creative interventions, we hope to encourage more people to be a part of the city-building process and imagine new possibilities for public space.

We are writing in support of the City providing portable washrooms and sinks in City of Toronto Parks. During the COVID-19 Pandemic we continue to see people using public space like never before. The importance of public space cannot be understated. It is essential for physical, mental, and spiritual health. It is a place where we can be together with friends and family safely or be alone with others. It's also a space of survival.

While many people are discovering the benefits of public space, we are also seeing how our current public washroom infrastructure is inadequate to meet the needs of our housed and unhoused community members. People of all walks of life are relying on washrooms in public parks to relieve themselves in absence of the ability to do so in fast food restaurants, coffee shops, libraries, and community centres. The absence of a robust network of public washrooms in this City means that people are using alleyways and parks as places to go. Not only is this an issue for park users, but this is also a serious public health issue.

The lack of public washroom access makes navigating public space difficult or impossible for people who have chronic health conditions, people who are elderly, people who are pregnant, and families with children. During this time of crisis, we have seen how public space is social infrastructure that is flexible enough to support a variety of activities and needs. We must also ensure that community members (both housed and unhoused) have access to basic sanitation and washroom infrastructure.

Thank you,  
Cara Chellew, Organizer  
Toronto Public Space Committee  
[www.publicspace.ca](http://www.publicspace.ca)



**To:** Members of Toronto City Council  
**From:** Toronto Public Space Committee  
**Date:** June 7, 2021  
**Re:** GL23.13 - Amendment to the Non-Competitive Blanket Contract Number 47023034 for the Provision of Portable Washrooms and Sinks in City of Toronto Parks

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

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We are writing in support of the city providing portable washrooms and sinks in City of Toronto Parks. During the COVID-19 Pandemic we continue to see people using public space like never before. The importance of public space cannot be understated. It is essential for physical, mental, and spiritual health. It is a place where we can be together with friends and family safely or be alone with others. It's also a space of survival.

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The lack of public washroom access makes navigating public space difficult or impossible for people who have chronic health conditions, people who are elderly, people who are pregnant, and families with children. During this time of crisis, we have seen how public space is social infrastructure that is flexible enough to support a variety of activities and needs. We must also ensure that community members (both housed and unhoused) have access to basic sanitation and washroom infrastructure.

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Toronto Public Space Committee  
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