



626 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON M5S 2R1 • Phone 416-533-2725
Email: info@shevchenkomusic.com • www.shevchenkomusic.com

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Toronto City Council
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attn: Marilyn Toft, Council Secretariat

Delivered by email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Re: PH27.2 – Zoning Conformity for Official Plan Employment Areas – Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Update

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of the National Shevchenko Musical Ensemble Guild of Canada, I wish to express our concern and alarm with respect to the report on Zoning By-Law conformity for employment zones in the Official Plan, specifically the proposed removal of permissions for bingo halls and related uses in the Former City of Etobicoke Zoning By-law (Attachment 9 to the Final Report).

Our charity is one of 66 local charities that rely on Delta Bingo and Gaming St. Clair, to support our organization in the Toronto community. Without that support we will simply not be able to function.

The Shevchenko Musical Ensemble consists of the Toronto Mandolin Orchestra and the Shevchenko Choir. Both have been part of the Toronto music scene for over 60 years. We perform multiple concerts throughout the year and this is only possible thanks to the funds we receive from Delta Bingo and Gaming St. Clair. They help us pay for artistic fees such as our soloists, who play a big part in the concerts, rehearsal hall rent and they help provide us with much needed equipment such as music stands. Without these funds we wouldn't be able to perform or even to rehearse.

The last 18 months have been very challenging for everyone, and our organization is no exception. We have struggled to survive with very little funding as Delta St. Clair was closed for 420 days over the course of the pandemic. Now, due to a proposed expropriation from the City of Toronto and Metrolinx, the Delta

St. Clair location will have to move to another site. The new site (at 360 Evans Ave.) is currently zoned to allow for a Bingo Hall. Under the proposed By-law amendment that permission would be revoked.

As you can appreciate, finding an appropriate venue at a reasonable price in the current real estate environment is a real challenge. We are looking forward to the move to 360 Evans Ave. and urge you not to remove this permission and allow us to re-locate as planned with the current permissions.

Based on the concerns identified above, we respectfully request that the Draft By-laws and report, specifically as it applies to the use of employment lands for bingo halls, is removed entirely or in the very least referred back to City Planning staff for dedicated public consultation and review. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request, and we look forward to further discussions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andre Denton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andre Denton

President

National Shevchenko Musical Ensemble

626 Bathurst Street

Toronto, Ontario M5S 2R1