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GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

April 24, 2021

To the Executive Council
Toronto City Council

Dear Councillors;

Re: EX23.3 Provincial Transit-Oriented Communities Program

The Gooderham and Worts Neighbourhood Association wishes to request direction by City Council and City Planning to require immediate public consultation regarding the future of the First Parliament Site in light of the actions by Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario to remove this site from City ownership. We are strongly opposed to any action that will overturn or replace the community-driven planning process which has taken place to date.

Our organisation has been involved in planning for the First Parliament Site for almost two decades in collaboration with the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, The West Don Lands Committee and the late Councillor Pam McConnell, among others. The site is of national historic interest but is also intended to provide needed green space in a neighbourhood that is lacking in such, and to provide genuinely affordable housing for families close to a transit hub. The plans by Metrolinx do not speak to any of the central ideas behind the First Parliament Site proposal which has recently reached fruition after many years of land assembly and creative visioning by its neighbours.

We trust our City will continue to work to protect this Site from development exploitation. Community involvement as a base requirement should be passed immediately by Executive Committee so City Planning and Transit Departments can collaborate with our full support.

Thank you,

Diana Belshaw
Chair Development Committee
Gooderham and Worts Neighbourhood Association

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