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Park People would like to provide its support to recommendations in the Report from the Deputy City Manager, Infrastructure and Development Services as outlined in Agenda Item EX 24.3, Ontario Place Redevelopment Update.

Ontario Place is 155 acres of public land on the waterfront, with a significant portion of those lands being green parkland, beaches and public gathering areas. It's key location in central Toronto makes it a vital public space for all of the city and the province. With so much population growth and development pressure in central Toronto, it is essential that these lands remain free and open to the public. As the experience with COVID has shown us, parks are absolutely essential pieces of green urban infrastructure, vital for our mental and physical health. It is inconceivable that any plan for the future of Ontario Place would threaten this public parkland.

The Terms of Reference for Province of Ontario - City of Toronto Engagement on the Future of Ontario Place and Exhibition Place is a positive step forward. Park People is particularly pleased with commitments to enhance the connectivity and access to the waterfront through revitalized and expanded open spaces and parks. Our main recommendation for improvement are to strengthen the provisions for:

1. A principle of free public access - Ontario Place lands need to remain a free and open public green space.
2. Public engagement - There needs to be a stronger commitment to a fully open public engagement process for the future on these vital public lands. Plans must be shared and developed with the public well before any decisions are made.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Harvey

