



May 31, 2021

Dear Members of The Toronto Executive Committee,

Re: EX24.3 – Ontario Place Redevelopment Update

I write as Chair of the West Side Community Council, an umbrella organization of thirteen West End community associations, in regard to agenda item number EX24.3, the proposal to City Council to approve the proposed "Province of Ontario - City of Toronto Engagement on the Future of Ontario Place and Exhibition Place Terms of Reference" as a means to continue and advance discussions with the Province of Ontario on the Ontario Place redevelopment.

We support a joint venture between the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario to develop these publicly held lands in concert with and for the betterment of the citizens of Toronto and Ontario.

This area by the waterfront is a destination district, appreciated not just locally and regionally but nationally and internationally. With all this focus comes pressures to develop and transform. Some of these will be desirable, but others not.

We have several areas we would like to speak to:

1. That the Exhibition Place Master Plan and the Exhibition Place Strategic Plan continue to align and draw in Ontario Place to make this 347 acres in total on the Toronto waterfront a world-renowned centre-piece of good governance into the next century.
2. That there be an acknowledgement of the value of open green space for the health and well-being of Toronto residents. The increase in the population surrounding these two publicly owned lands has seen in the past 15 years 125,000 new residents and the future residents yet to come
3. That you will place a high value on the historical relevance of this area to the first peoples and subsequent colonial-settlers' place in the past as we move forward.
4. That regardless of the Province's intentions the Exhibition Place Master Plan continues to move forward – setting a high bar by example. It is critical to invest money into the sites as a public asset, and not solely as a revenue generator.
5. Finally, our concern regards the increased interest in the exploitation of these lands for private commercial benefit as is seen in the recent Provincial Government proposal to develop major portions of Ontario Place. Also, the recent proposal to develop the Hotel X

Phase 2 with its additional 30-storey (400 room) hotel and 7,000 seat “gaming stadium”.  
Neither aligns with the ideals of public open green space.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Sincerely,



Ric Amis

Chair, West Side Community Council

Secretary/Chair, Parkdale Residents Association

Members of the WSCC include the Grange Community Association, the Harbord Village Residents' Association, the Garment District Neighbourhood Association, the Trinity Bellwoods Community Association, the Ossington Community Association, the Lakeview Avenue Neighbourhood Association, the Liberty Village Residents' Association, Beaconsfield Village Residents' Association, Active 18, the Parkdale Residents Association, Roncesvalles–Macdonell Residents Association, and the Bloordale Community Improvement Association.