

West Don Lands Committee

Citizens for the Old Town
Corktown Residents & Business Association
Distillery Historic District
Dixon Hall
Enoch Turner Schoolhouse Foundation

October 26, 2021

By email: exc@toronto.ca

City of Toronto Executive Committee

Friends of Corktown Common
Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,

Re: Ex27.8 The First Parliament Site and Expropriation of City-owned Lands by Metrolinx for Transit Purposes

Little Trinity Anglican Church
St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

We are writing on behalf of the West Don Lands Committee to express a concern about an item in the staff report attached to this agenda item.

St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association

Our concern relates to the staff answer to the motion: **MM35.31 Ensuring Retention of Community Benefits Through Provincial Expropriation of Municipally-owned Land - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by**

Councillor Joe Cressy, found on pages 10-12 of the background report.

The underlined portions of the staff answer to this request, are the basis of our concern:

3. City Council direct the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, to report back to the Executive Committee in first quarter of 2022, on a process for returning statutory compensation generated through Provincial and Federal expropriation of municipal lands back to the local community.

Net proceeds from the sale or disposition of real estate assets, including compensation as result of expropriation, are to be deposited in the Land Acquisition Reserve Fund to fund future capital requirements, as per the "Policy Governing Land Transactions Among City Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Departments and Proceeds from Sale of Surplus City- Owned Real Property" (Clause embodied in Report No. 9 of the Policy and Finance Committee, June 2002). This will provide a source of funding to solution unfunded needs, as well as create capacity for future needs and ensure that the City continue to invest strategically beyond the 10-year capital plan.

Further, as presented in the report *City-wide Real Estate - Next Phase of Implementation* that is being considered by Executive Committee in October 2021, net proceeds from the sale of property will be centralized for decision-making with a City-wide perspective.

We suggest that the disposition of the First Parliament Site should be distinguished from transactions subject to the default City disposition policy for the following reasons:

- This is not a disposition of surplus City land. It is an expropriation of land that was purposively assembled over many years at significant cost.
- The First Parliament lands were acquired to serve a civic and commemorative purpose. They were never intended to be revenue producing for the City.

- The value of the First Parliament Site lies in the opportunity to meet the civic and commemorative priorities identified in the First Parliament Master Plan including:
 - Recognition, through the provision of commemorative space and a dedicated interpretative centre, of both indigenous activity on the site and the post contact establishment of the First Parliament Buildings which hosted the development of the governance structure of the province.
 - Creation of a new and desperately needed public park as previously approved by the City through the 2017 rezoning of a the TPA parking lot on the First Parliament Site
 - Recognition of the commitment to Toronto Public Library for accommodation of a new regional library (arising out of the 2012 land swap that saw used TPL lands to bring the last piece of the First Parliament Site into City ownership).

We have noted with appreciation, the June 10th letter from the Deputy City Manager to Metrolinx and Infrastructure Ontario reinforcing these same priorities and expectations.

We feel it is crucial to ensure that as negotiations evolve there is clear direction from Council to ensure that sufficient proceeds from the expropriation will be available and prioritized, if needed, to achieve the site-specific City objectives for the First Parliament Site. Failure to do so risks undermining more than twenty years of advocacy and policy development on the part of the City and community members.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,



Cynthia Wilkey
Co-Chair

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John Wilson
Co-Chair

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cc. Councillor Joe Cressy
Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam