

April 27, 2021

Jennifer McKelvie
Chair, Infrastructure and Environment Committee
Toronto City Council



RE: IE21.12 UPDATE ON OPENING PARK WASHROOMS

Support for the City of Toronto providing park washrooms and request for the installation of further portable washroom facilities at the City's busiest parks

Dear Councillor McKelvie,

The Waterfront Business Improvement Area (BIA) is writing in support of the report from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation on the plan to open all park washrooms earlier than the Victoria Day Weekend, and as quickly as possible. We are tremendously grateful to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff for their efforts during this difficult time to keep parks open, clean, and beautiful destinations for Torontonians to enjoy.

Through this COVID-19 pandemic, Toronto's waterfront parks have served as key public spaces for people to get exercise, enjoy nature, and gather following the COVID-19 guidelines. To facilitate this and enhance people's enjoyment of these parks, **the Waterfront BIA requests that popular parks such as Sugar Beach, HTO Park, and the Toronto Music Garden get further portable washroom facilities to ensure that visitors can enjoy these parks to their fullest potential as the weather gets warmer.**

As you can see on the following page, our pedestrian counts along Queens Quay illustrate that there will be close to-as many people utilizing the parks and public spaces along the waterfront as there were pre-COVID. With tourism restricted, this means the residents of Toronto are visiting and enjoying their beautiful waterfront parks more than ever. We appreciate your support, and please feel free to contact Oliver Hierlihy for further information – oliver@waterfrontbia.com.

Sincerely,

Tim Kocur,
Executive Director
The Waterfront BIA

Oliver Hierlihy,
Director of Operations
The Waterfront BIA

cc: Joe Cressy, City Councillor, Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York
Mike Layton, City Councillor, Ward 11, University-Rosedale
Janie Romoff, General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation

PEDESTRIAN COUNT SUMMARY FOR QUEENS QUAY (Year-to-date)

The Waterfront BIA's year-over-year [pedestrian counts](#) at the intersection of York St. and Queens Quay West illustrate how well-used the waterfront's public spaces and parks have been during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 and 2021, with similar usage through the warm months of the year compared to pre-COVID levels.

