

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM35.1	ACTION			Ward: 9
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### **1117 Queen Street West - former Canada Post Building - by Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

#### **Recommendations**

Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to request the Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada to instruct Canada Post to immediately halt the proposed sale of the publicly-owned former Canada Post site at 1117 Queen Street West.
2. City Council direct the City Manager to request Canada Post to work with the Chief Planner, and Executive Director, City Planning, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, the Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Toronto Arts Council, and members of the local community to examine and take measures to retain the building in public ownership for the purpose of establishing a cultural and arts hub for the neighbouring community and the City at large.

#### **Summary**

The former Canada Post building at 1117 Queen Street West was built in 1902 having been designed by the well-known Canadian architect, Samuel George Curry. The site is .323 acres in size and has a 108 foot frontage onto Queen Street West. The building is 11,354 square feet in size and is two storeys tall. It is historically listed with the Heritage Register (1973). The site is centrally located in the Queen Street West and Ossington Avenue retail area of the Ward 9 Davenport community. This area is home to the largest number of art galleries in the City of Toronto. It is subject to the Garrison North Secondary Plan. Since 2017, the Ward Councillor has been strongly advocating to Canada Post and the Federal Government that this site is a crucial part of the community and should be explored as a potential arts and cultural hub for the surrounding neighbourhoods and the City as a whole. Irrespective of these efforts, Canada Post has now declared the site as surplus and listed it with an independent real estate agency for sale. The City has not been consulted on potential future uses for the site nor with respect to any potential community specific uses for this location. With its location and the significant arts and culture focus of the area, it is perfectly situated for use as a public arts and culture hub. Canada Post and the Federal Government should therefore set aside the current disposal

process of the site to private interests and engage with City officials and the community on retaining the building in the public interest.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM35.1