



Fontbonne Ministries

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH, TORONTO

June 9, 2021

Sent via email: councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca

Councillor Paula Fletcher
100 Queen Street West, Suite C44
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Fletcher,

Thank you for your continued support of the important services that Fontbonne Ministries, Sisters of St. Joseph (Fontbonne) provides to vulnerable population in Toronto's East Side. We are particularly appreciative of your assistance as we navigate the significant challenges that the construction of the Ontario Line will have on our residents and vulnerable populations who use our services.

As you know, Fontbonne was founded in Toronto in 2000 to carry on the Sisters of St. Joseph's tradition of responding to community needs. Our programs welcome everyone, without distinction, and serve vulnerable populations including seniors, and people experiencing social isolation. In 2020 alone, our organization continued to fill a critical community need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic including:

- 6,291 meals served
- 2,268 articles of clothing and hygiene kits distributed
- 13,256 visits to all Fontbonne programs
- 15,662 volunteer hours contributed
- \$1,734,565 contributed to support programs

(Figures for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2020)

We were recently briefed by Metrolinx and have a better understanding of the construction timeline and immediate impacts the project will have on our residents and programming given that the Ontario Line will run adjacent to our property and a portion of our property will be expropriated. Currently the construction and mitigation measures proposed are insufficient and unworkable for our residents.

Fontbonne serves the community's most vulnerable, and our residents (vulnerable older women) face significant accessibility issues due to the loss of on-site parking. In addition, we remain concerned about the noise and vibration that will make the current building simply unlivable for our residents some who have suffered from significant trauma.

Secondly, we are concerned with the timeline for the expropriation notice that we received this week. Metrolinx has notified us that our lands have been expropriated effective May 18, 2021, and that Metrolinx will take possession of our lands effective May 1, 2022. Without solutions to mitigate the issues above that timeline is simply unworkable and will cause undue stress to our residents.

We must note that our objective is to work productively with Metrolinx to find solutions that work for our residents and visitors to our programs but currently we have not yet come to an agreement.

We appreciate your attention to these matters and looking forward to working with you to continue our important services without disruption before, during and after construction.

Sincerely,



Ben Vozzolo
Executive Director
Fontbonne Ministries, Sisters of St. Joseph,
Toronto



Sister Georgette Gregory, CSJ
Board President, Fontbonne Ministries
Congregational Leader, Sisters of St. Joseph of
Toronto

Cc:

Board of Directors, Fontbonne Ministries

Susan Ouellette, Chief Administrative Officer, Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto

Amanda Garrett, Facilities Administrator, Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto