

North York Community Preservation Panel

November 9, 2021

12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Marilyn Toft

RE: MM37.10 Celebrating 100 Years Since the Founding of the Township of North York - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Jaye Robinson

Dear Mayor John Tory and Members of City Council,

This is to express our strong support for the Member Motion to commence planning to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Township of North York in June 2022.

While North York has significant built heritage from early settlement, arguably its greatest built heritage legacy is that of Modernist Architecture – from the 1960s to 1980s period – the heyday of North York’s rapid growth and development. The period in which North York was built coincided with the period in which Toronto grew from a mid-sized city into Canada's largest metropolis. Not only are modernist buildings in North York (and Toronto) unique and experimental, they are artifacts from that period of remarkable growth, and therefore should receive the same respect and treatment as 1920s skyscrapers in New York.

In 2009 the Panel republished the former City of North York’s “North York’s Modernist Architecture”, and in 2010 published “North York’s Modernist Architecture Revisited” in conjunction with the North York Modernist Architecture Forum. It may be fitting to consider further revisiting of the topic in conjunction with the North York Centennial celebrations.

We look forward to further discussions with the City and other partners in the celebration.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoff Kettel, Past Chair
Alex Grenzebach, Interim Chair

c.c. Glenn Bonnetta, President, North York Historical Society
Michael McClelland, Partner, ERA Architects, Inc.
Mary MacDonald, Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, City Planning Division
Gary Miedema, Project Manager, Heritage Planning, City Planning Division