

RE: Willowdale Manor Seniors Care Home Parklands

175 Cummer Ave. Willowdale, Toronto



*Every
resident*

*Bill of Rights for people who live
in Ontario long-term care homes*

*Every
resident*

*“has the right to be given access to
protected areas outside the long-term care facility in order to enjoy
outdoor activity, unless the physical setting makes this impossible.”*



This joint declaration is made in response to continuing statements by City of Toronto officials and their political allies and recent media reporting, all of which omit material facts and include material misrepresentations.

In March 2021, with zero community notice or consultation, the City announced it would destroy and redevelop Willowdale Manor Seniors Care Home Parklands at 175 Cummer Ave in Willowdale, Toronto. The secret selection of this site was championed by local Willowdale Councillor John Filion.



In January 2022, following thousands of petitioners' protests, Willowdale MPP Stan Cho officially informed the City that it's poorly planned project at must be relocated. In a letter to Toronto Housing Chair/Deputy Mayor Ana Bailão, MPP Cho states "... *this site is just not suitable.... I am committed to working with the City to ensure we can find a more suitable location in Willowdale.*"

Unfortunately, Ms. Bailão and Mr. Filion and Mayor John Tory have refused to address the serious problems with this site selection and have refused to work with MPP Stan Cho on an alternate site. Instead, they have chosen to play politics and blame the Ontario Government for the city's own mistakes.

Specifically, for almost a year, City officials led by Mr. Filion, have:

- Refused to address or even to admit these parklands are protected for the seniors home residents' use and enjoyment under decisions in 1997 by the City of North York Planning Committee and 1998 by the Ontario Municipal Board. Decisions in which Mr. Filion himself was involved in 1997-1998.
- Refused to explain why seniors' rights and green canopy preservation are not issues permitted to be raised or discussed despite explicit City and Provincial policies protecting both.
- Refused to disclose the 50 alternative sites Mr. Filion claims were assessed and judged to be inferior to the protected parklands of a seniors home.
- Refused to justify how this interior neighbourhood parkland site within a City of 156,000 acres is the best location despite having limited proximity to daily living services much less to professional mental health and addiction supports for the chronically homeless persons intended to be housed on such seniors parkland.
- Refused to admit that the local Newtonbrook East neighbourhood associations have opposed this site on the basis that it would violate the seniors' rights and parklands preservation policies, as well as being an inappropriately remote location.
- Defamed and incited hatred towards neighbourhood residents and organizations, as "anti-homeless NIMBYs", while knowingly suppressing the fact, this very neighbourhood has since 2019 accommodated a major social services site at Cummer Ave. and Yonge St. initially housing over 175 refugees and now maintaining over 100 homeless shelter beds, not all of which are filled.
- Refused to address the serious site limitations and zoning by-law non-compliance issues raised by the City's own Planning Department and Provincial agencies.



In light of the foregoing facts and misleading City led media blitz, we again call for public officials at the City to do the right thing.

*Do right by Seniors.
Do right by the Environment.
And do right by the Homeless.
City officials don't have to choose one.
Honest and intelligent public servants can do all 3.*

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