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## Toronto Industry Network

## **EMAILED**

May 10, 2022

Mayor Tory and Toronto City Council, City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2.

Attn: Ms. Marilyn Toft

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Council:

## Re: EX32.3 - Removal of Harbour Rail Lead Line

The Toronto Industry Network is writing to respectfully ask that you direct staff to report back with a plan patterned on the Dillon Harbour Rail Lead study (Dec. 2021) that will:

- a) Land bank an improved rail right-of-way as set out in the Dillon report including provision for a new yard on Unwin Avenue and curve adjustments to allow movement of 75-foot rail cars, and
- b) Request that Metrolinx protect from re-development or allow the City to own the 300m Metrolinx section of the Port lead line running east from the Don GO train storage yard.

This action will keep the existing rail line intact from being built on as has happened with the Leslie Street Canada Post depot and Lookout Park and allow for the right-of-way to be incorporated into the new Lakeshore Boulevard and Leslie Street. It is critical that the Metrolinx section of the Port rail lead remain whole as it gives access to the larger rail system.

This is an issue of maintaining infrastructure options for the future operation of the Port that will help it grow and diversify. Without rail, the Port is essentially a static operation limited in the types of cargo it can handle and is additionally faced with competing land use interests such as Lookout Park that will put pressure on Port users such as the Concrete Campus.

The City prides itself as being green and to eliminate the possibility of re-introducing rail which is a green form of transportation (one rail car equals 3-4 trucks) is very short-sighted.

We understand that a commitment was made in 2002 through a legal settlement with the City, TEDCO and the Port Authority to maintain the rail line for 30 years.

Council needs to think about the Port not what It is today but what it will be in the future. Not creating a permanent right-of-way will send a very negative signal about the future of our Port.

We thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Craig McLuckie, President