



Attention:

Mr. John Tory, Mayor of City of Toronto, and
Member of Toronto City Council

Dear Mayor of City of Toronto and Member of Toronto City Council,

My name is Hyun Joo Chae, the president of Korean Canadian Business Association of Toronto with 300 members of hospitality business in Toronto, and our association has around 80 members in Willowdale, including restaurants, Cafes, hair salons, and other small retail business.

We were informed by Councillor John Fillion's newsletter a couple of weeks ago on converting Novotel Hotel, 3 Park Home Ave, North York, to a refugee shelter shortly from September 2022. We, all from our hearts, are supporting the refugee programs and very proud to be Canadians.

However, we hereby strongly suggest for the Toronto City Council to consider this conversion can provide benefit for the local business community for long term when we have serious recession without our business resilience. Novotel Hotel has been the only one hotel in Willowdale attracting many business visitors and tourists to the local business in year-around. Our association fully understand the difficulty of the operator of Novotel had during Pandemic as our members experienced. Even we understand the Toronto City's urgent demand of a refugee shelter, our members as a small business owner are still struggling to survive and concerned the survival in 2022 and 2023 as there is strong sign of stagflation lately.

In addition, the Novotel Hotel is located at the core part of Willowdale business area, and an absence of business hotel in the core business area can seriously affect negative influence to the local business. Further, our members believe that City Council shall have a full communication with the local business community to find the best solution when the city's decision has big impact to the local business community.

We ask the City Council to provide another opportunity to sell the Novotel Hotel to another major hotel operators, who can invest and manage the hotel for better impact to the local business community as the tourism has been improved lately.

We hope, Toronto City Council makes a sensible decision to consider long term impact to the local business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hyun Joo Chae', is written on a light grey rectangular background.

Hyun Joo Chae, President of KCBA