

Mayor John Tory  
City of Toronto  
100 Queen Street W,  
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

July 12, 2022

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,

**RE: EX34.4 Priority Downtown Parks and Public Realm Opportunities**

Tour, charter, and water taxi industry issue identification as part of the proposed Bathurst Quay signature waterfront park

The undersigned commercial tour, charter and water taxi operations in Toronto's inner harbour are writing in support of the proposed revitalisation of the *Bathurst Quay signature waterfront park at Spadina Quay and the Portland Slip*, and to **highlight the need for immediate action to ensure that berth spaces for our industry are replaced and expanded in the inner harbour.**

Our commercial tour, charter, and water taxi operations provide much-desired public access to water-based recreation with an estimated 450,000 passenger vessel trips taken in 2019, and a contribution of approximately 500 jobs. Our industry has grown alongside new tourist experiences, parks, and substantial residential and office developments along the inner harbour. The story of Toronto's waterfront growth as a destination is incredible, and we are proud of contribution to that experience.

While the proposed revitalisation will improve the waterfront economy as a destination, we are concerned about the revitalisation's impact on the number of berths available for our industry. A loss of berths without adequate alternative facilities in place to replace them would have a significant impact on this currently growing and in-demand industry. This development in combination with work being done to develop public space at the Parliament Slip by Waterfront Toronto will require relocation of a significant number of operators in the inner harbour. New berths, and expanded berths, including new finger piers, must be in place in advance of relocation due to construction.

We also emphasize that it will be essential that the City of Toronto, its entities and partners (Ports Toronto, Waterfront Toronto, Harbourfront Centre, CreateTO) and all three levels of government must **prioritize recommendations in the 2020 Marine Use Strategy to ensure commercial tour, charter, and water taxi operations remain viable in Toronto's inner harbour.**

We understand as part of this consultation and design process moving forward today, the City of Toronto will work with our operators to identify solutions for relocation and additional berths. We also highlight and request immediate action on the following priorities outlined in the [2020 Marine Use Strategy \[Link\]](#):

- 1) The expedited development of new finger piers for the tour and charter industry in locations across the central waterfront such as East Bayfront and at the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal as outlined in the *East Bayfront Precinct Plan* and the *Jack Layton Ferry Terminal Master Plan*.  
[2020 Marine Use Strategy item 4.5.1 / Additional Finger Piers]

- 2) The development of managed common user berths for the tour, charter, and water taxi industry to allow for boats to dock at locations near to the inner harbour and pickup passengers at a centralised location.  
[2020 Marine Use Strategy item 4.5.2 / Common User Dock]
- 3) Build out facilities to allow for the servicing of tour and charter boats close to the central waterfront, including maintenance, fulling, fresh water, supplies (food), and sewage disposal.  
[2020 Marine Use Strategy item 4.5.3 / Boat Repair]
- 4) Consider the construction of a large multi-user pier that could accommodate a new cruise terminal as well as accommodate berth space for the tour, charter, and water taxi industry.  
[2020 Marine Use Strategy item 4.5.4 / Multi-User Pier]

If you wish to coordinate a meeting or consultation with our group of operators or require contact details, please contact Oliver Hierlihy, Director of Operations for the Waterfront BIA, [oliver@waterfrontbia.com](mailto:oliver@waterfrontbia.com).

**Sincerely,**

**City Experiences by Hornblower**

Pat Dunn

**City View Cruise**

Simon Da Rosa

**Empire Sandy**

Eric Rogers

**Empress of Canada**

Jacqueline Casciola

**Gone Sailing Adventures**

Howie Colt

**Great Lakes Schooner Company**

Damien Ivers

**Olympia Cruise Line Inc.**

Kwame Mario Hew Smart

**Pioneer Cruises**

Ginni Sethi

**Pirate Life Children's Theatre**

Matt Slaman

**Pirate Taxi**

Thilan Sibera

**Ste. Marie**

Brian Viveros

**T DOT Water Taxi**

Ewelina Kmiec

**Tiki Taxi**

Luc Cote

**Toronto Harbour Tours Inc.**

Brian De Rocher, Dan Farris

**Toronto Yachts**

Mani Saba

**Yankee Lady Yacht Charters**

Jill Hicks

Carbon Copy to:

Janie Romoff, General Manager, City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation  
and Bryan Bowen, Program Manager, Capital Projects

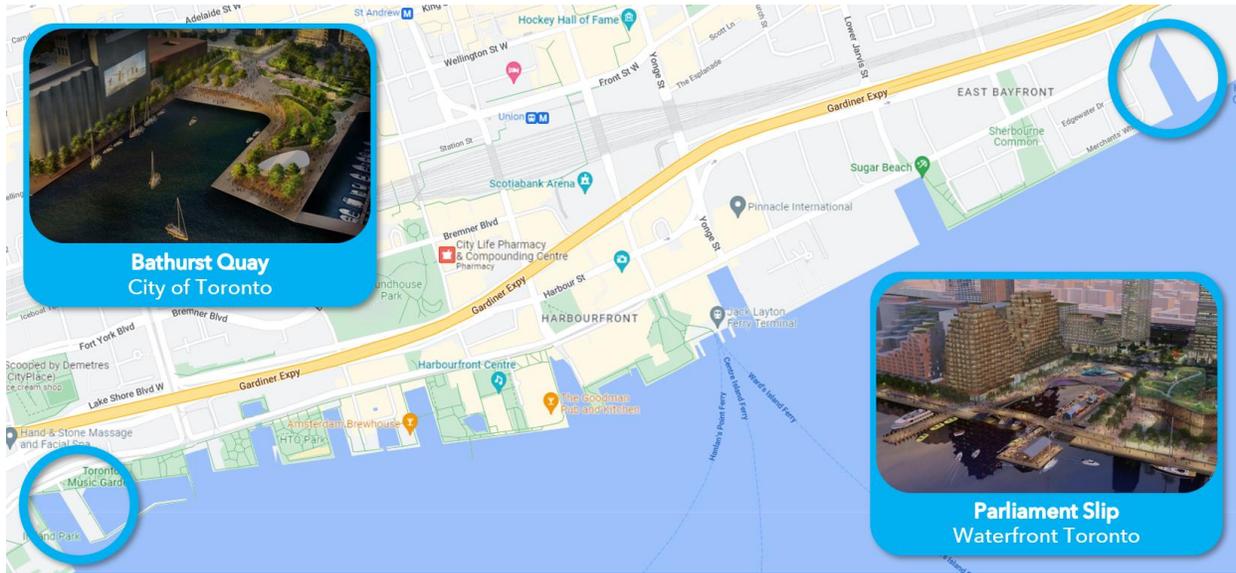
Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner, City of Toronto  
and David Stonehouse, Director, Waterfront Secretariat

George Zegarac, CEO, Waterfront Toronto  
and Rei Tasaka, Senior Urban Design Manager, Planning

Marah Braye, CEO, Harbourfront Centre, CEO  
and Craig Weekes, Manager, Marine Operations

Geoff Wilson, CEO, PortsToronto  
and Mike Riehl, Harbour Master

Vic Gupta, CEO, CreateTO  
and Scott Pennington, Director, Waterfront Business Planning



Improvements planned for Bathurst Quay and Parliament Slip will be exciting additions to the growth of Toronto's waterfront and inner harbour as a destination.

As part of the City of Toronto's on-going consultation and design process, our industry will highlight the importance of replacing and expanding upon the number of berths for commercial tour, charter and water taxi operators who may be displaced. This includes recommendations in the 2020 Marine Use Strategy, including additional finger piers.