



TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TORONTO CITY COUNCIL
DATE: 12 JULY 2022
RE: COMMEMORATIVE FRAMEWORK

Tēnā koutou katoa (Hello to you all)

I understand that the Executive Committee of Toronto City Council is due to meet soon to consider a new Commemorative Framework to guide how the City commemorates public figures and events, including those relating to Henry Dundas. Unfortunately, the time difference prevents me from making a request to speak directly with Committee members.

My view, as an expert in modern Scottish history and its diaspora, is that the scholarship on Henry Dundas, to date, is insufficient to form a basis on which to conclude that his actions prolonged Britain's slave trade. I understand that much of the City's current steer on renaming Dundas Street is a result of input from Dr Stephen Mullen. However, Dr Mullen's efforts cannot be considered authoritative, or even reliable, for the reasons I outline in my article 'Bad History: The Controversy over Henry Dundas and the Historiography of the Abolition of the Slave Trade' which appears in the peer reviewed journal *Scottish Affairs*, 31:2 (2022), pp. 133-153.

Ngā mihi nui (Kind regards)

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