



December 22, 2021

Planning & Housing Committee  
c/o Nancy Martins, Secretary  
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
[phc@toronto.ca](mailto:phc@toronto.ca)

Dear Ms. Martins,

I am writing today on behalf of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association (OFVGA) to express our concerns with a proposed residential development adjacent to the entrance of the Ontario Food Terminal (OFT) at 125 The Queensway.

The OFVGA represents Ontario's 3,500 fruit and vegetable farmers on issues affecting the horticulture sector. The sector grows safe, health and local produce in fields and greenhouses across the province for fresh and processed consumption. A combined 1,500 Ontario growers rely directly or indirectly on the OFT to sell their produce.

The pandemic has only heightened our collective responsibility to ensure a resilient food supply chain for the success and well-being of our communities. The OFT has been and will remain a critical part of the infrastructure that will continue to feed communities in the Greater Toronto Area.

We appreciate that housing in Toronto, indeed across the province, is a critical issue that requires attention, priority, and community flexibility. These needs are real and pressing. However, we also know that residents of Toronto need access to jobs and an affordable, readily available supply of food, too.

The food available at the OFT is relied on by independent grocers, restaurants, and many others – and ultimately regular Torontonians – throughout the City of Toronto. In addition, the terminal plays a fundamentally important food security and equity role and is used by organizations such as the Daily Bread Food Bank and Second Harvest.

The OFT and its surrounding lands are a major direct and indirect employer in Ontario. Many employees work for wholesalers or food processors in the agri-food network of businesses in Etobicoke surrounding the terminal. The lands surrounding the OFT are just as significant to employment as the lands on which Terminal is located.

The terminal was designated a provincially significant employment zone by the Ontario Government in October 2019, because, on any one day, approximately 5,000 employees work at the OFT, and indirectly the terminal creates thousands more jobs throughout the province.



OFVGA has appreciated that the Toronto has recognized that the OFT and the surrounding lands play a pivotal role in the provincial agri-food network; for years, the city supported the designation of the OFT as a Provincially Significant Employment Zone (including most recently in February 2019).

The major residential development proposed to be adjacent to the entrance of the Terminal – at 125 The Queensway – would adversely impact the operating environment for nearby businesses at the OFT and the viability of the surrounding Employment Area, including:

- Pressures on traffic and anticipated complaints by residential neighbours about the facility, for example, could harm the long-term sustainability of these essential employment lands.
- The OFT relies on the continued existence of employment lands surrounding the Terminal for use by produce wholesalers and other businesses that support the Terminal. The loss of employment lands at 125 The Queensway would serve to put pressure on those other employment lands.

We respectfully request that the City of Toronto consider these significant concerns and reject a proposed conversion of 125 The Queensway into a non-employment use. It is important that we collectively work to ensure that our food supply infrastructure is protected.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill George".

Bill George  
Chair, OFVGA Board

cc:

Councillor Mark Grimes, [councillor\\_grimes@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_grimes@toronto.ca)  
Jeffrey Cantos, [jeffrey.cantos@toronto.ca](mailto:jeffrey.cantos@toronto.ca)).