



Sent by Email to: Carol Kaustinen, CreateTO Administrator trab@toronto.ca
Vic Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, CreateTO vgupta@toronto.ca

Monday April 11, 2022

Re: RA30.6 Mount Dennis Campus Opportunity (Ward 5)

Dear Chair Ron Carinci and Members of the Board, CreateTO

The Mount Dennis BIA and the Mount Dennis Community Association have been working together with the City of Toronto to promote economic development in Mount Dennis. We would like to thank CreateTO for taking action to bring a post secondary institution to Mount Dennis based on the excellent work of the City in preparing and following up on the Mount Dennis Economic Development Strategy.

However we are startled to learn that the first City property identified in today's report by CreateTO proposes to relocate the ecoCampus outside of the Mount Dennis Planning Area and away from our regional transit hub.

We ask that you reconsider this for the following reasons:

1. A campus located immediately adjacent to the Mount Dennis station offers students faculty and administration direct connections to Union Station and Pearson Airport by the UP Express; provides immediate access to users of regional transit services of GO Rail; presents Crosstown transit linkage as of the end of this year to the Kennedy Station and will connect westward to Mississauga by 2030; and will be well served by TTC Bus service routes.
2. Local employment areas including the Mount Dennis main street of Weston Road, Black Creek Business Park and Alliance Employment Area are immediately accessible for business innovation and development covered by the Mount Dennis Economic Development Strategy.
3. The proximity to field education sites such as those connecting with land education and wellness sites of Indigenous peoples on the Humber and Black Creek; the West Park Health Care Centre; and local energy innovations in battery and hydrogen technologies.
4. The applied learning opportunities related to sustainable community development, green building design and construction technologies involved in development proposals arising from Mount Dennis Land Use Framework intensification policies and Mount Dennis Pilot Net Zero Neighbourhood designation; and
5. Mount Dennis has nearby regional recreation facilities of the Eglinton Flats which could be shared.

We understand that having a campus serving the central west of Toronto may not be possible with a Mount Dennis site. However, we believe that all possible Mount Dennis sites should be fully considered before sites not in the Mount Dennis planning area are promoted. Locating in Mount Dennis offers far greater opportunity for growth and is more convenient for students and staff, and those advantages should not be wasted.

We further understand that the use of the Civic Centre property, which is located in the Keelesdale neighbourhood, may be useful for affordable housing as part of an arrangement that will create lands for the campus in immediate proximity Mount Dennis Transit Station. We therefore request that you consider either of the other two sites mentioned in your report as having higher priority as primary location opportunities for learning, research, innovation and administration facilities of the future Mount Dennis Post Secondary Campus.

Best regards,

Canandra Nicolaou
Co Chair, Mount Dennis BIA

Mike Mattos
President, Mount Dennis Community Association

cc: [Councillor Nunziata@toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Nunziata@toronto.ca);
NSimos@createto.ca;
Catherine.Cieply@toronto.ca