

Harbourfront
Community Association
Station A, Box 144
Toronto, M5W 1A2
April 20, 2022

For: The Chair & Members of Toronto & East York Community Council
Subject: 545 Lakeshore - Community Development Proposal

Is there any way the City of Toronto or a Community Land Trust can purchase the 545 Lakeshore Boulevard heritage building, for use as community facilities, providing neighborhood and city services?

We are aware that Canderel Development has already purchased the property, for the construction of two condo towers, and we hear that they are planning to sell the heritage building on the property formerly owned by Rogers-Omni TV.

We are asking because the Harbourfront Community needs more public facilities. As you know, Toronto's Waterfront is the fastest growing community in Canada, growing from a population of 10,000 to more than 100,000, in the last 20 years.

Many condos have been built here, but there are almost no community facilities. The harbourfront community needs schools, daycare centers, seniors services, a homeless shelter, health services, recreational facilities, cultural facilities, etc.

This brand new community needs public services to match its huge population growth. The Waterfront Neighborhood Center is all we have at this point, and the demand for facilities has outgrown this under-funded neighborhood center.

If 545 Lakeshore heritage building facilities can be partnered with the Waterfront Neighborhood Center, much needed public programs can be offered for children, seniors, and condo residents who are currently underserved in this community.

If Canderel won't contribute this building to the community, perhaps the city can expropriate the building in exchange for granting Canderel the right to build two oversized condo towers on the last piece of available property on Toronto's waterfront. Or perhaps the property can be purchased by the city, provincial government, and federal government for Waterfront Toronto to manage.

We understand, this request comes late in the game, but that's what happens when city planning doesn't give residents a chance to plan for public facilities. Surely, City Planning can do better than just build condos without planning for needed community services. Please help us to create a better community.

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