



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula Fletcher**

City Councillor | Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth

June 22, 2022

Councillor Gord Perks
Chair, Toronto and East York Community Council
Toronto City Hall

Re: TE 34.5 Renaming of Lower Coxwell Ave between Queen St East and Lake Shore Blvd East

Dear Chair and Members of Toronto and East York Community Council,

I am writing today regarding item TE34.5. This stems from a 2019 request from Toronto Water to formally name the stretch of road that runs south from Coxwell Avenue between Queen and Lakeshore in order to allow for municipal numbering of a new Green P lot.

At the time there was a strong desire to engage the Indigenous Community on a potential new name for this road. However respecting Toronto Water's need to have an official name in order to advance their project, TEYCC approved Lower Coxwell while asking the Indigenous Affairs Office to begin consultation on a new name.

This allowed the infrastructure work to proceed and gave the Indigenous led consultation process time to be done in a comprehensive way. That process has now concluded with a recommendation from the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation supported by the Indigenous Affairs Committee to rename Lower Coxwell to **Emdaabiimok Avenue** meaning '**Where the road goes to the water**' in Anishinaabemowin. .

However Engineering and Construction staff have recommended against this renaming on a technicality, specifically that the street has been renamed within the last 10 years. As mentioned, this first renaming was done quickly to allow for Toronto Water to complete necessary infrastructure work in that area. There are no other businesses or residents who will be impacted by this second change.

Additional correspondence from Toronto Police Services and Toronto Fire Services raises a concern that the proposed name may be difficult to spell or pronounce. I do not believe this assertion is correct. We have many street names that are difficult to spell or pronounce (Roxborough, Gloucester, Wroxeter) not to mention names that exist on two totally separate streets. I am confident that people will quickly learn to pronounce the new name.

I am asking for your support to rename Lower Coxwell Avenue as Emdaabiimok Avenue. Denying the name change on a technicality, after so much thoughtful work by the Indigenous Community would be, in my view, offensive to the many people who contributed to this project.

This change will have to be approved by City Council on July 15th/16th. I recognize that naming streets, parks, buildings and assets is a small gesture and it does not fulfill the deeper need for reconciliation. I

sincerely hope this naming will be considered as a meaningful and respectful recognition of the rich Indigenous history in Toronto Danforth and beyond. I hope I can count on your support.

At a time when the City of Toronto has embarked on its own process to re-evaluate the colonial naming of streets and public spaces and potentially rename a number of streets across our city, it is disappointing that we could miss this opportunity to affirm Toronto's Indigenous history with an Indigenous street name right here and now on a minor technicality.

Toronto and East York Community Council recommend that:

1. City Council grant an exemption to Section 3.4 of the Street Naming Policy which states in part "Streets that have been named, renamed, or assigned a ceremonial name within the previous ten years will not be renamed", and approve the renaming of Lower Coxwell Avenue to "Emdaabiimok Avenue".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Fletcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paula Fletcher
City Councillor
Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth