

November 24, 2022  
Mayor Tory and Members of City Council  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Attn: Sylwia Przewdziecki, City Council Secretary

Re: CC 1.2 Update on Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act (Ward All)

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of City Council,

Mount Dennis Community Association (MDCA) is a long standing voluntary organization representing civic issues of people who live, work, play, do business, go to school, receive service of local institutions, in the Mount Dennis neighbourhood. We are located in Ward 5, York South Weston. The neighbourhood is approximately half way between Union Station and Pearson Airport, and when the Crosstown is fully extended, it will be half way between Renforth Gateway and Mount Pleasant on Eglinton.

We support the need for sustainable urban development, and feel that this proposed legislation contains many details that emphasize economic profit-taking ahead of principles that ensure we build in a way to create equitable access to opportunities; develop healthy built and natural environments; and shift to circular green economic growth as we immediately respond to the climate emergency.

Transit is the backbone of urban growth. As a community voice for peoples living in a Transit Oriented Community, we feel the Ontario Transit Agency Metrolinx has disenfranchised community stakeholders in its decision-making. MDCA calls upon City Council and Mayor to immediately follow-up to insist that an urgent course correction on planning for the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension. MDCA, through its sustainability partnership development arm of the Mount Dennis ecoNeighbourhood Initiative, has been actively trying to build a collaborative forum with local urban indigenous peoples, community connector representative, Metrolinx and the City to consider ECME plans that are being rushed into final tendering by December of this year.

The ECME plans have serious negative impacts to our local environment. They entail clear cutting a swath of forested wetland that has been established along the south ends of Fergy Brown and Emmett Park since the days when Eglinton Avenue was first extended over the Humber River and across Eglinton Flats.

A range of related concerns have been raised at the end of City Council's last term, with a motion by Councillor Nunziata directing the City's Transit Services Expansion Office to negotiate for an underground alternative and report back on necessary adjustments to the new Council. The motion received approval at two council meetings. It was strongly endorsed by Mayor Tory, who equated this situation with that of Osgoode Park, for which he was advocating for reconsideration by Metrolinx of its design approach.

Metrolinx, in both cases have ignored the historic heritage of the sites. First peoples met with John Graves Simcoe along the eastern shore of what is now known as Humber River, in the immediate area of what is now planned by

Metrolinx as an expressway-style bridge. This tall concrete structure will impose itself on the character of the parkland and reinforce the first "zero line" Simcoe surveyed to divide land for settlement north of what was to become Fort York. Our understanding from speaking with our local urban indigenous peoples is that the historic intent of their peoples was to welcome and share the common land as resource for all life.

We have just been advised by Metrolinx it intends to immediately direct the eligible bidder it now has selected to proceed to financing for the Elevated Bridge.

It is time-critical for the Mayor and City Council to act NOW in support of our local community in to ensure ECOM is built in the most sustainable way possible, and to ensure that the least possible environmental damage to our parks is allowed to take place. Otherwise, the current authority of Metrolinx is to be used to pre-empt any action by Council and the Mayor.

Respectfully

MIKE MATTOS  
President Mount Dennis Community Association  
and Co-Lead Mount Dennis ecoNeighbourhood Initiative

JUDITH HAYES  
Vice President Mount Dennis Community Association  
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RICK CICCARELLI  
MCA Executive Board Associate  
and Lead Director (volunteer) Mount Dennis ecoNeighbourhood Initiative