



方卓怡 市議員 **Paula Fletcher**

City Councillor | Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth

January 30, 2023

Mayor John Tory
Chair, Executive Committee
City of Toronto
100 Queen St. W

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee,

Re: CafeTO

When CafeTO was established, it was a lifeline for the many restaurants and coffee shops across the city and saved many businesses. It was such a popular program that it was extended to private areas in plazas across Toronto. In my ward alone 137 restaurants joined the program last summer. Not only did it help businesses it also transformed the public realm; becoming much loved by local residents who enjoy an afternoon coffee or a summer night on the patio.

The decision to make it permanent was well received by the BIA's in Ward 14 however many have told me that the proposed changes are too big and too fast to ensure the continued success of the program - especially with the federal government requiring the repayment of their COVID loans in 2023.

Businesses and restaurants are not yet out from under the crushing impacts of the pandemic and the city needs to continue to be a champion to keep our main streets alive.

While the permit fees currently proposed are onerous and may severely curtail this popular program, a 'participation fee' would ensure that only serious business owners participate and would end the 12% 'dropout rate' of 2022 when the program was free.

AODA requirements are a serious matter for our streets and sidewalks and there is no getting around these requirements. Identifying one or two suppliers and making it easy on restaurateurs is the way to go to keep it simple and financially viable. TABIA will, as usual, be a tremendous help.

There are a few other things to consider where using the creative and flexible approach which brought this program into being will ensure its continued success. I am sure that everything will be taken into consideration before the report comes to City Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

