



[ontarioplaceforall.com](http://ontarioplaceforall.com)

April 19, 2023

General Government Committee

Dear Chair Pasternak and members of the Committee,

**RE:2023.GG3.20 Ontario Place Redevelopment - Declaration of Surplus (Ward 10)**

Ontario Place is currently a free, open and accessible waterfront park that is used by more than a million people every year. It is also an internationally recognized architectural treasure. And yet this amazing asset is at risk RIGHT NOW with a private spa threatening to dominate Ontario Place.

Ontario Place for All is asking the General Government Committee to not declare surplus the City-owned parcels of land and water located at Ontario Place, for the following reasons:

We feel this declaration and the subsequent land swap would be premature, as the development application for Ontario Place has not made its way through City Hall yet. Staff have identified many serious issues with the development application, which the proponent may not be interested in mitigating. Surrendering this land at Ontario Place now removes possible leverage to get the proponent to better adhere to City Plans and policy.

We also note the local Councillor, Councillor Malik, has refused consent to expedite the land swap, and has registered strong opposition to the MegaSpa proposal at Ontario Place.

In the context of the mayoral byelection, we believe that a new mayor should be given the opportunity to assert their vision for Ontario Place, so this decision should wait until the mayoral byelection is complete.

Finally, we note our over 10,000 supporters from Toronto want Toronto City Council to stand strong for the valuable public space at Ontario Place, which has become an oasis for many in the city, as Premier Robarts originally intended, it indeed functions as the backyard for many Torontonians, and indeed Ontarians.

Best,

***Ontario Place for All***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "NDP".

Norm Di Pasquale, Co-Chair  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C Wilkey".

Cynthia Wilkey, Co-Chair  
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Ontario Place for All is a grassroots organization who want to ensure Ontario Place redevelopment follows core principles of waterfront revitalization.

### **Our Core Principles**

- o Ontario Place must be for ALL and kept publicly accessible.
- o There must be a thoughtful, comprehensive public review before any changes, with a full and robust public consultation that:
  - conforms to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report's call for informed, respectful and meaningful consultation with Indigenous peoples over economic development
  - recognizes the diverse communities that use and contribute to Ontario Place
- o Public interest, not commercial interest must drive the new vision.
- o Future plans must
  - acknowledge the waterfront's Indigenous heritage and incorporate meaningful Indigenous consultation
  - maintain Ontario Place as part of Toronto's waterfront park system.
  - be integrated with the revitalization of Exhibition Place.
  - celebrate Ontario.
  - be guided by a collaboratively developed Conservation Management Plan that sustains Ontario Place as a recognized cultural heritage landscape.