



July 18, 2023

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: MM8.4 Protecting the Science Centre to Support Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park

To Whom it May Concern:

Friends of Thorncliffe Park is an active neighbourhood park association connected to R.V. Burgess Park in Toronto. We create accessible, engaging, & inclusive public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

As local residents who are raising our families here, we are avid supporters of the Ontario Science Centre's work in the Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park community, have witnessed the impact of accessible public science programming on community well-being, and its contributions to local place making and beautification, while building educational capacity in our own community.

The current location is a tremendous benefit to local schools because school trips are within walking distance. Our neighbourhood has a large population of children and youth. We are very densely-populated in apartment buildings, and are already recognized as being under-served to support our community's needs, which includes many new Canadian families.

The current location is also accessible for families in neighbouring communities who don't have the time to get stuck in downtown traffic and who don't want to pay expensive downtown parking rates. The province's new location at Ontario Place has none of the benefits of the Science Centre's current location.

Friends of Thorncliffe Park fully supports Councillor Matlow's motion, seconded by Councillor Burnside, to study options the City can pursue to keep the Science Centre open in Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park, including a potential transfer of ownership from the province.

We encourage City Council to vote for MM8.4 in support of a prosperous future for Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park families.

Sincerely,

Safeera Hatia
Co-founder, Friends of Thorncliffe Park
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