

**From:** [Stogetherainsinourparks](#)  
**To:** [Clerk](#); [Mayor Chow](#); [Councillor Nunziata](#); [councilmeeting](#)  
**Cc:** [Councillor Crisanti](#); [Councillor Holyday](#); [Councillor Morley](#); [Councillor Perks](#); [Councillor Pasternak](#); [Councillor Perruzza](#); [Councillor Colle8](#); [Councillor Bravo](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [Councillor Saxe](#); [Councillor Matlow](#); [Councillor Moise](#); [Councillor Fletcher](#); [Councillor Jaye Robinson](#); [Councillor Burnside](#); [Councillor Carroll](#); [Councillor Cheng](#); [Councillor Bradford](#); [Councillor Kandavel](#); [Councillor Thompson](#); [Councillor Mantas](#); [Councillor Myers](#); [Councillor Ainslie](#); [Councillor McKelvie](#); [Derrick Toigo](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] 2023.MM13.3 on December 13, 2023 City Council  
**Date:** December 12, 2023 2:44:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [SaveEglintonFlatsLettertoCCDec122023.pdf](#)

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Dear City Clerk, Mayor Chow, Councillor Nunziata, and members of Toronto City Council,

Please find attached a letter on behalf of the Save Eglinton Flats Coalition regarding MM13.3.

Thank you for consideration,  
Neiland Brissenden

Neiland Brissenden  
Spokesperson  
Stop the Trains in Our Parks/Save Eglinton Flats Coalition  
[stothetrainsinourparks@gmail.com](mailto:stothetrainsinourparks@gmail.com)

# Save Eglinton Flats Coalition



December 12, 2023

To: City Councillors, Mayor, Deputy Mayor  
CC: General Manager, Transportation Services, the Executive Director Transit Expansion, the clerk's office  
Subject: MM13.3 Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown West Extension – Elevated Guideway

Dear Councillor Nunziata, Councillor Colle, Mayor Chow, Deputy Mayor Malik, and City Councillors,

RE: MM13.3 Metrolinx Eglinton Crosstown West Extension – Elevated Guideway – by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

We'd like to express our appreciation to Councillor Nunziata for her efforts to take steps to protect our irreplaceable parks, endangered species and the 1,500 trees slated for destruction under Metrolinx's current plan for the Eglinton Crosstown West Extension (ECWE).

We ask that the City Council take additional steps to encourage Metrolinx in any way possible to do the right thing and stop their illogical and ill-conceived plan to build an elevated guideway bridge through our parkland with two massive, out of character, elevated stations over Jane Street and Scarlett Road. We ask that City Council consider the following:

Ask Metrolinx to once again explore options to bury this section of the ECWE, or run it at-grade along Eglinton Avenue West, which would save time and money. (Background: City Council unanimously support Councillor Nunziata's Motion MM43.34 in 2022 requesting Metrolinx to explore options to bury the line. Metrolinx refused this request.)

## Detrimental impacts of the elevated section

The plan to build the elevated section through parkland would destroy at least 1,485 trees and have detrimental impacts on the community, wildlife and the environment. The parks in question—Fergy Brown Park, Eglinton Flats and the Humber River area—are a sensitive ecosystem, wildlife corridor, migratory bird route and home to Threatened and Endangered species. The naturalized urban forest in the parks is a flood and erosion protector, natural temperature regulator and sound barrier between the parks and Eglinton Avenue West. The parkland is respectfully used for many ceremonial, recreational, sport and social activities. The Humber River is a Canadian Heritage River and an urban river valley protected by the Ontario Greenbelt. The planned elevated section would run through the York South-Weston community of Mount Dennis, one of the most economically disadvantaged and diverse areas in Toronto. The parks are a defining feature of this community and improve the quality of life for residents. The parks will also serve tens of thousands of new residents who will live in the many residential tower developments being planned as a result of the transit line. This loss would be devastating to some of the most at-risk populations in Toronto and further contribute to our worsening climate crisis.

## Metrolinx's failure to consult the community

Metrolinx established their plan to run the ECWE trains on an elevated concrete track through the parks as a done deal in 2020 without any consultation with Urban Indigenous groups and community members within the area of Mount Dennis. Metrolinx consulted the community in Etobicoke, which resulted in that section being buried underground. Further, **Metrolinx has consistently refused to provide details about the plan and its impacts, denied all of the community's Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, failed to properly notify residents about their meetings, provided misleading renderings to the community and flip flopped on their rationale to move forward with the elevated section.** Metrolinx has refused to collaborate in assessing the impacts to these lands through an Indigenous lens as requested by our Coalition despite the community concerns being raised as a public dispute to City Council, and the transit agreements having a dispute resolution mechanism. Metrolinx representatives have conceded publicly that it is technically possible to run this 1.5km section underground, and Metrolinx's own business case outlining different ways they could build the line stated that underground was the best option of the community and local environment, offered the best severe weather protection, and lowest maintenance costs. The business case also noted that running the line along the road was the cheapest and quickest to build and was the City's preferred technical approach.

## Community response

The Save Eglinton Flats Coalition is made up of the local residents' association, and advocacy and environmental groups determined to protect our greenspace, trees and wildlife habitat for future generations. For nine months we partnered with local urban Indigenous organizations, who erected a tipi in Pearen Park and burned a Sacred Fire in Ceremony to honour the trees and parks 24/7. Unfortunately, after Metrolinx announced expropriation of the land and threatened legal action that could have resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal costs and criminal charges, the decision was made to extinguish the Sacred Fire and remove the tipi.

To be clear, our coalition supports the ECWE and welcomes the benefits it will bring to our community. However, we strongly believe that our community and others in the GTA deserve both world-class transit and our parks. We encourage the City Council to work with Metrolinx to build better, more equitable and environmentally sound transit for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Save Eglinton Flats Coalition