



Councillor Jon Burnside
Ward 16—Don Valley East

Toronto City Hall | 100 Queen Street West, Suite B33, Toronto ON M5H 2N2



August 29, 2023

Members of North York Community Council

Matthew Green
North York Community Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

NY7.7 - 123 Wynford Drive - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Application - Appeal Report

Dear colleagues,

I have been very active on this development application and wish to formally submit **my support** for the Recommendation contained in the Appeal Report **to oppose** the current application at the Provincial Appeal Body, The Ontario Land Tribunal. Through consultation and meeting with residents an understanding of the property's cultural heritage value has been deeply enriched:

1. The property is a physical testament to the Japanese Canadian community's resiliency, as well as hope and belief in a more culturally tolerant and inclusive future and to the community's hard work towards contributing to and participating in the cultural plurality that defines Canada.
2. The property contains the former Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, a two-storey concrete building designed by Raymond Moriyama Architects and Planners. The building blends Japanese design with Brutalism. The property also contains Nikka Teien, a friendship garden designed by Raymond Moriyama with construction completed in 1973.



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3. The property holds associative value as a cultural centre and community hub that was conceived, financed, and stewarded by the broad participation of the diasporic Japanese Canadian community in Toronto. The purchase of the property in 1960 and the construction of the building in 1963 was financed by the diasporic Japanese Canadian community through individual donations and community fundraising events, as well as with 75 families acting as guarantors on a bank mortgage.
4. The majority of the building, including the entire ground floor, is proposed to be demolished and the front steps are proposed to be removed. Alterations proposed to the landscape include changes to grade and the salvage, relocation and reconfiguration of the Moriyama-designed sculpture. These alterations would have a negative heritage impact.

Sincerely,



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