



July 3, 2023

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
Attention: Nancy Martins

**PH5.2 – Official Plan Amendment for Bill 97 Transition – Authorizing the Continuation of Institutional and Commercial Uses in Employment Areas.**

Dear Chair Bradford and Members of the Planning and Housing Committee

FoNTRA strongly supports the urgent recommendations of this report to continue to protect our employment lands threatened by Bill 97.

Why are these recommendations needed?

- Bill 97 amends the definition of "area of employment". These changes purposefully exclude institutional and commercial uses in employment lands. In Toronto such uses are critical in providing a buffer to heavy industry. The revised definition has the potential to remove approximately 25% of the City's General Employment Areas (including office parks) and risk (including office parks) and risk approximately 150,000 jobs currently located in these areas through future land use change.
- However, Planning Act changes authorize municipalities to implement Official Plan policies that would permit the continuation of uses excluded by the new definition, so long as the use was lawfully established before the new definition came into force, likely in the Fall. Bill 97 only received Royal Assent on June 8, 2023.

We also support the City's request that the Province delay the date the PPS 2023 comes into effect until January 1, 2024 (at the earliest) to allow OPA 688 to come into effect first. This delay is essential given that paragraph 2 of the new Provincial requires the institutional and commercial uses are required to be lawfully established the day before the relevant Planning Act changes comes into effect, which could be in September. The timelines for enacting OPA 688 are very tight.

Geoff Kettel  
Co- Chair FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald  
Co- Chair FoNTRA

CC: Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division

**The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA)** is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 200,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.