



May 4, 2023

Councillor Dianne Saxe
Toronto City Hall
C47-100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Saxe:

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate 100 College Street
Schwartz Reisman Innovation Campus Phase 2 (East Tower)**

I am writing to express my gratitude for your ongoing work with the University on 100 College Street. I cannot overstate the importance of this project to the discovery mission of the University but also to the economic development aspirations of the city, province, and country. Supported by a record \$100M gift from the Gerald Schwartz and Heather Reisman Foundation, the University is embarking on an ambitious development project that will add in total approximately 650,000 square feet of innovation space to Toronto and enhance the city's capacity in artificial intelligence and life sciences.

The east tower (currently 100 College St.) would add over 400,000 gross square feet of dedicated life sciences space including a much-needed enhancement of wet lab capacity in downtown Toronto. Overall, this project is estimated to create more than 4000 new highly skilled jobs and lead to the growth of new companies right here in the city.

Unfortunately, the prospect of heritage designation has slowed discussions with prospective development partners as indeed the designation, for a host of technical reasons, would impact the viability of the project and in particular the delivery of much needed wet lab space. This is why we've sought your support in resolving these issues in a timely manner and I am buoyed by your willingness to bring this forward to committee for reconsideration.

While our analysis suggests that the building does not meet any of the nine criteria outlined in the Ontario Heritage Act for designation, I can assure you that commemoration of the University's discovery journey is of critical importance to the institution and to me personally. Accordingly, we are developing a commemoration plan that would highlight some of the University's marquee discoveries in life sciences, including Banting and Best's work on Insulin, Till and McCulloch's discovery of stem cells, and continued work in regenerative medicine. Our vision is a commemorative walk located within the SRIC East building that may, in turn, spill into other areas of our downtown campus.

An initial vision for this effort is attached and work will proceed in earnest once a development partner has been selected. While this work is underway, you have my commitment that you and your office will be kept informed of progress, especially with respect to key elements of interest

such as how the current door to 100 College Street will be incorporated into our commemoration plan while prioritizing options to incorporate the door external to the building.

In closing, I thank you again for the consideration you have given to this critical project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meric Gertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meric" and last name "Gertler" clearly distinguishable.

Meric S. Gertler
President

cc: Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning