



Saving Public
Access to Community
Space Everywhere

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Re: EC14.7 - Targeted Expansion of the Association of Community Centres to Support
Community Development in Toronto

The SPACE Coalition (Saving Public Access to Community Space Everywhere) is delighted to express strong support for the proposal to expand AOCC's. SPACE advocates for affordable, accessible and equitable access to public space that is welcoming to all residents. We believe that access to public space, including schools and municipal facilities, is the cornerstone of healthy, vibrant neighbourhoods. AOCC's are exceptional and essential components of public space in Toronto and a model for other municipalities. Expanding the model will benefit city residents and neighbourhoods for decades.

For 50 years, the AOCC model from the former City of Toronto has supported community development, often in shared or co-located spaces such as the Waterfront Neighbourhood Center or repurposed buildings such as 519 Church. AOCC's are at the core of their communities, providing space, services, employment, support, for residents of all ages from pre-natal to seniors. Under volunteer Boards of Management comprised of a majority of neighbourhood residents, each center develops its own local priorities, service configuration, funding strategy, and space use policies, all within the context of over-riding City policies and procedures.

SPACE looks forward to the Implementation Plan and the development of additional centres.

Susan Fletcher,
Co-Chair, SPACE Coalition
Saving Public Access to Community Space Everywhere.