



A Project of the Toronto York Region Labour Council
in Partnership with the United Way Greater Toronto

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April 06, 2024

Attention: Toronto City Council

RE: Supporting a Barrier-Free Long-Term Land Lease with the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation for City-Owned Land

Dear Mayor Chow and Councillors,

We are writing in support of the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation (SCCR)'s request for a long-term land lease with the City of Toronto. The project led by SCCR will build an important place of belonging for the Somali community, one of Canada's largest Black communities. It is planned as an important public space that will be a focal point for Somali creativity, community work, recreation, and for archiving Somali culture and heritage in Canada.

Labour Community Services was formed to uphold the partnership between United Way Greater Toronto and Toronto & York Region Labour Council.

Our mission is, to create a deep and lasting social solidarity between labour and community to achieve a just and equitable society for all. LCS organizes workers and families in their communities and organizations to improve quality of life through education, advocacy for social justice and provision of needs (social services). Establishes healthy communities through union solidarity. Builds a bridge to improve the lives of people in communities who are also union members. In doing this we will establish an environment of community unionism. And works toward a more just and equitable society for workers and their families.

The City of Toronto has a historic opportunity to respond to over 40 years of community work to realize the SCCR social infrastructure project, fulfill a local need to animate public spaces, deliver on vital amenities such as the proposed cultural spaces, childcare, gymnasium, aquatic facility, and public realm improvements. In addition, the SCCR's project will bring important services to the community and key

anchor partners that have the potential to provide high-quality educational, vocational, recreational, health services and cultural programming. This important project by the SCCR will serve as a catalyst for long overdue federal and provincial investments in social infrastructure for our diverse Black communities.

We urge you to immediately and unanimously adopt a positive decision that advances a long-term land lease for the SCCR and to clearly demonstrate the city's unwavering commitment to barrier-free investments in Black-led social infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Faduma Aww Mohamed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Faduma" being more prominent.

Faduma Mohamed

Executive Director

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