

9 December 2024

Executive Committee City Hall, Toronto

RE: EX19.2 - Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization – Update: Letter of Support

Dear Mayor Chow and Executive Committee Members,

On behalf of the East Waterfront Community Association (EWCA), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization as outlined in the December 5, 2024, staff report. Our association has a deep interest in the success of these projects in our area and is wholeheartedly committed to enhancing our neighbourhood's connectivity, safety, and livability. These initiatives hold immense potential for transforming our waterfront into a vibrant and inclusive space for all residents, workers, and visitors, aiming to advance the development of complete communities, and continuing the successful tri-government partnership in waterfront revitalization.

The project's focus on improved connections aligns perfectly with EWCA's long-term goals of affordable housing, transit and traffic improvements, pedestrian and bicycle safety and security, peaceful enjoyment of the Lakefront, and family-friendly infrastructure. We've witnessed and participated in the East Waterfront's growth through our contributions to Community Liaison Committees, such as:

- the Gardiner Rehabilitation Community Liaison Committee,
- the Waterfront East Light Rail Transit Stakeholder Advisory Committee,
- the Quayside Stakeholder Advisor Committee, and
- the Keating Channel Pedestrian Bridge Community Liaison Committee.

EWCA recommends extending Waterfront Toronto's mandate to 2035 to support project implementation, with a possible extension to 2040, subject to government review.

We are especially excited about the ongoing discussions regarding affordable housing and transit, including the Waterfront East Light Rail Transit project, connecting 100,000 residents, creating 50,000 jobs, and serving a ridership of over 50,000 passengers, leading the city's growth and the planned density of housing, commercial uses, and world-class destinations in the East Bayfront. We applaud the implementation of interim bus lanes along Queens Quay East to address immediate transit and traffic challenges in our neighbourhood, bringing equity, inclusion, and access to residents, workers, and visitors alike.

The EWCA is confident that the initiatives outlined in the report will revitalize our waterfront, creating a space that is awe-inspiring, beautiful, and functional, serving the needs of our diverse community. We urge the Executive Committee to carefully consider and fully support these

recommendations. We also urge the Council in the coming months to negotiate with the tri-government partners to secure the funding and necessary agreements to advance these initial projects and develop the complete communities in Ookwemin Minising (formerly referred to as Villiers Island) and Quayside and continue the successful tri-government partnership in delivering the Waterfront East LRT and waterfront revitalization.

The East Waterfront Community Association urges the Executive Committee to champion this plan and make its timely and successful implementation a priority.

Sincerely,



Michael Bethke

President,

EAST WATERFRONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

cc. Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik
Tom Davidson