

Members of the Planning and Housing Committee
City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St W
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

As Associate Vice President of Real Estate Strategy and Facilities Operations for Centennial College, I am writing to express our organization's strong support for the Downsview Area Secondary Plan, proposed by City of Toronto staff, and the supporting Community Development Plan. Having been involved in the community consultation processes from the outset and also having seen firsthand Canada Lands Company's commitment to working with equity-deserving groups, I am proud to give our enthusiastic endorsement.

In our work at Centennial College, our mission is to educate students for career success, and we are committed to building a secure, sustainable and rewarding future for our students, our institutions and the communities we so proudly serve. As Ontario's first community college, established in 1966, we are proud to serve, primarily the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), with five campuses and seven satellite locations, including our most recently opened campus at Downsview which houses our Bombardier Centre for Aerospace and Aviation. This campus represented a major turning point for Centennial College, furthering our position as a leader in avionics, aircraft maintenance, and aerospace manufacturing education.

This new campus has enabled us to:

- increase our enrolment our aerospace programs to over 900 students in 2023, with the expectation that it will climb to 1,200 (largely domestic) within the next two years;
- secure over \$10M in research funding for aerospace-related projects, including the creation of a dedicated Landing Gear Research Lab and the establishment of new industry partnerships with global leaders, such as Safran Landing Systems and Collins Aerospace;
- accept a landmark donation of a Global 7500 business aircraft (an award-winning aircraft that has a price tag of over \$72M) from Bombardier, providing students with the opportunity to receive incomparable hands-on training using the industry's latest advanced technology.

The Downsview Area Secondary Plan stands to significantly amplify our impact, opening up opportunities for academic, research and innovation, entrepreneurship and community engagement to be nurtured and take root. We are continuously driving to be more innovative and entrepreneurial, to further exploit the benefits of technology, to creatively engage our employees, to build more bridges with communities and employers, and to see our students and graduates do meaningful work and have meaningful lives.

Centennial also remains committed to supporting the diversity of needs our student community faces which includes exploring opportunities for student housing to support the Downsview Campus.

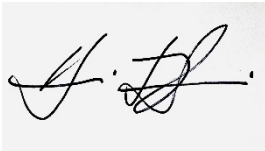
I've had the privilege of working closely with Canada Lands Company for several years now as we have established our Aerospace Technology program at Downsview and the efforts that CLC have committed to ensure our success affirms their genuine dedication to seeing the full buildout of the Secondary Plan and all of the community benefits and social infrastructure that will accompany it.

Centennial College is a longstanding member of the Community Resource Group, established by Canada Lands Company and Northcrest Developments, so I know firsthand how they earnestly engage with the community at large and incorporate distinctive viewpoints into their planning process, including ours, from our unique perspective of academia, research and innovation.

I urge the Planning and Housing Committee to recognize the critical importance of approval, as it lays the groundwork for a future marked by shared prosperity and opportunity for all members of our community.

Thank you for considering our perspective and for your leadership in moving this important city building initiative forward.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Dekker', is shown within a light gray rectangular box.

Henri Dekker
Associate Vice President, Real Estate Strategy and Facilities Operations
Centennial College