

September 23, 2024

To: Toronto and East York Community Council (Public Meeting, Sept. 25, 2024)
Planning Application Number 22 204780 STE 13 OZ, 214-230 Sherbourne Street

I am writing on behalf of CFUW Leaside–East York, which has approximately 60 members and includes women who live in Ward 13. CFUW, with clubs across Canada, works towards promoting the status of women and more broadly, social justice.

We have been monitoring the struggle by housing advocates to ensure these empty lots on Sherbourne Street be used for affordable housing, in particular social housing. We are extremely disappointed that the application for a condominium of 46 storeys on these properties seems to be a ‘done deal’.

The Downtown East is an area in acute housing need. In the shadow of the proposed condo is the Dundas / Sherbourne intersection where extreme poverty and need is evident. There are also low- and moderate-income earners living locally who need housing. We fail to understand why the city would support a condominium on this site, with housing units unaffordable to buy or rent for many current residents, and anticipated potential residents needed to support the local economy.

Input received from the Community Consultation on Feb. 27 was supposedly considered for the review of this application. The following input was obviously ignored.

- urgent need to provide for affordable housing.
- concerns about gentrification.
- concerns about increasing homelessness in the area.

As a women’s advocacy organization, we emphasize that the City of Toronto declared gender-based, intimate partner violence an epidemic in 2023. Safe and affordable housing is critical to women escaping domestic violence. The City should be incorporating this declaration into housing policy, including for the Downtown East!

For Toronto to be a vibrant city for everyone we need more social housing and affordable rental housing in neighbourhoods like the Garden District, where these lots are located. We do not want a city of condominiums. We call on the Toronto and East York Council to reject KingSett’s proposal for a condo development. Instead, seek proposals that offer affordable housing for those in greatest need in this neighbourhood.

Sincerely,
Sheila Lacroix, Co-President
CFUW Leaside – East York (<http://www.cfuwleasideeast york.ca>)

■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■