



A New Civic Movement for A Better Toronto

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November 6, 2025

Toronto City Council
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Preservation of Weston Lions Arena and the Need for a Balanced Community Recreation Plan

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

I am writing to express deep concern regarding the proposed elimination of the historic Weston Lions Arena, a treasured community rink that has been a cornerstone of local recreation and hockey culture since 1949.

For more than seven decades, Weston Lions has provided an essential space for youth development, teamwork, and community spirit — a rare and vital hub in Toronto's west end where generations have learned to skate, compete, and connect. Its history is woven into the fabric of the city's sporting heritage.

The proposal to convert the arena into an MLSE Launchpad—on the premise that more youth now prefer non-hockey sports—risks erasing this legacy and depriving future generations of access to one of the few remaining ice surfaces in the west end. While the MLSE Launchpad is a commendable and forward-thinking initiative, it should not come **at the expense of another group of children** who are equally deserving of recreational opportunity.

A great and inclusive city is one that **finds ways for all children to thrive**, regardless of the sport they choose. The goal should be to preserve and revitalize the Weston Lions Arena while also enabling the development of an MLSE Launchpad — ensuring that both hockey players and non-hockey participants have the facilities they need. This shouldn't be a question of choosing one over the other, but of finding a solution that respects Toronto's history while meeting its future needs - a solution where co-existence for all is the north star.

I urge City Council to explore a balanced and creative compromise that keeps the rink operational while integrating new recreational programming, thereby upholding Toronto's proud tradition as a city that supports all forms of youth sport.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Tate", with a stylized, cursive script.

Daniel Tate

Executive Director, IntegrityTO