

SUBJECT: PH26.4 - Housing Action Plan: Avenues Policy Review Phase Two: Initial Study of Wards 9 and 11

Dear Mayor Chow and the Toronto City Council,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Centennial Community and Recreation Association (CCRA) and the many residents we represent regarding a matter of critical concern within the Avenues Phase Two pilot report (PH26.4), which is scheduled for Council consideration this week.

We are deeply concerned by the recommendation within the report to redesignate public school lands from their current *Neighbourhoods* designation to *Apartment Neighbourhoods*. We urge you to vote against the redesignation of school sites.

Redesignating school sites, including school yards, playgrounds, and parking lots, to *Apartment Neighbourhoods* sends an undeniable signal that these publicly owned, open, green spaces are now viewed as valuable, developable land.

As our city moves forward with density targets, the need for these open, green, publicly owned spaces for our children and the wider community will become even more acute—not less. Transforming vital public recreation spaces into land for developers directly opposes the vision of a complete community.

Our concerns are amplified by the current political and legislative context. With the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) under increased provincial control and the existence of Bill 33, which extends provincial authority over asset sales, there is a substantial risk that school lands could be sold to private developers with limited municipal oversight. We object to this potential upzoning and sale risk for schools in Wards 9 and 11, and the potential negative impact on other school sites in future citywide review phases.

We strongly recommend that all public school sites remain designated as *Neighbourhoods*.

We implore you to prioritize the long-term needs of our communities by protecting these essential public green spaces. **Please vote against PH26.4 and the redesignation of public school lands, or move an amendment to exclude public school lands entirely.**

We look forward to your positive consideration and action on this critical matter.

Sincerely,