



# JENNIFER MCKELVIE

City Councillor  
Scarborough-Rouge  
Park  
Ward 25

March 5, 2025

Dear Executive Committee,

## **Re: Advancing the Tamil Community Centre**

The Canadian Tamil community has been working tirelessly to advance the construction of a new community centre that will serve communities in northeast Scarborough. There is a longstanding need for increased community and social services in this area which is lacking city owned and operated community centres.

Building on more than a decade of foundational work done by long-standing community organizations and business leaders, a Steering Committee was established by the Canadian Tamil community to oversee the feasibility process for the design, construction and operation of a Tamil Community Centre.

The non-profit Tamil Community Centre will provide an inclusive, safe space where community organizations can offer programming and services to help address the evolving needs of the Tamil community and other racialized communities. The space will include cultural facilities, such as a library, museum and auditorium, multi-purpose spaces to facilitate educational programming and mental health services, and recreation facilities, including a gym and outdoor playing fields.

In October 2020, Toronto City Council voted unanimously in support of 311 Staines Road as the future site of the Tamil Community Centre, and a land lease was finalized the following year with an annual rent of \$1 plus HST.

The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario have announced \$26.3 million in funding for the construction of the Tamil Community Centre through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. The remaining costs of construction, approximately 25 percent, will be fundraised by the Tamil community.

The City-owned lands at 311 Staines Road being leased to the Tamil Community Centre do not currently benefit from Official Plan designation and Zoning By-law permissions necessary for the Community Building to be delivered in accordance with the terms of the Lease. Representatives for the Tamil Community Centre have filed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment applications to facilitate the necessary land use permissions to deliver the Community Building. As an extension of the City's in-kind support of the project, a waiver of the planning application fees associated with the Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendment applications would ensure the City upholds its commitment in offering the land lease, and enables the Tamil Community Centre to uphold their commitment to deliver the project.

100 QUEEN STREET WEST, SUITE B25 TORONTO, ON M5H 2N2

416-338-3771



COUNCILLOR\_MCKELVIE@TORONTO.CA



**Recommendation:**

1. City Council authorize the waiver of City planning application fees for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment set out in Schedule 13, Appendix C in Municipal Code Chapter 441 that would otherwise be payable by the Tamil Community Centre to the City for the property located at 311 Staines Road.

Thank you for your consideration.



Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie  
Councillor, Scarborough–Rouge Park