



May 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

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Mayor Olivia Chow  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
[mayor\\_chow@toronto.ca](mailto:mayor_chow@toronto.ca)

**Subject:** Concerns Regarding Item 2025.EX23.2 – Ontario-Toronto New Deal: Advancing the Delivery of Transit Oriented Communities

**Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Executive Committee,**

On behalf of the **B.O.L.D. (Building Opportunities for Leadership & Development) Community Coalition**, we are writing to express our deep concerns regarding **Item 2025.EX23.2**, particularly the lack of a formal commitment by the Province of Ontario—through Infrastructure Ontario—to deliver deeply affordable housing as part of the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) strategy.

If the Ontario Line project is to be eligible for federal infrastructure funding, there must be a clear, enforceable commitment to equitable housing outcomes. Relying on market-driven development without guaranteeing affordability risks deepening the housing crisis in the very communities most impacted by these projects.

Our coalition has been actively engaging with Metrolinx since **summer 2023**. Most recently, on **Wednesday, April 9, 2025**, we met with **Kelly A. Hagan**, Vice President of Community Engagement at Metrolinx, to raise concerns and propose constructive solutions that could ensure the Ontario Line's success through **meaningful community engagement and tangible local benefits**.

We appreciate that following our meeting, Metrolinx reinstated regular Community Liaison Committee (CLC) meetings. However, several key issues remain unresolved, including:

- **Collaboratively finalizing the CLC Terms of Reference**
- **Improving transparency and reporting** on local hiring, procurement, and community benefit delivery
- **Strengthening coordination** between Metrolinx, contractors, and community partners to meet equity targets

Residents and grassroots activists have made clear that communities like **Moss Park continue to be neglected**, with little indication that these investments will result in good jobs or dignified housing. A recent community action underscored these frustrations. You can view the short documentary of that event here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKptNOInNhE>

We urge the Executive Committee to **insist on binding commitments from the Province** regarding affordable housing and equitable community benefits before endorsing the Ontario-Toronto New Deal. This is a moment to ensure public investments in infrastructure also serve public good.

Finally, we extend an invitation to you and your colleagues to attend our **Annual General Meeting**:

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

**Thorncliffe Park Community Hub** (2nd Floor, East York Town Centre, 45 Overlea Blvd, Toronto)

Registration at 5:30 PM | Meeting from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Your attendance would demonstrate your commitment to inclusive development and provide an opportunity to connect directly with residents and coalition members who have contributed over two years to advocating for equitable outcomes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your support and partnership in building a fairer, stronger Toronto.

Sincerely,

Walied Khogali Ali and Liz Driver

Co-Chair(s)

**The B.O.L.D. Community Coalition**

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- BOLD Coalition members: *Campbell House Museum, Don't Mess with the Don, Federation of South Toronto Residents' Associations (FoSTRA), Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA), Friends of Smalls Creek, Garment District Neighbourhood Association, Gooderham and Worts Neighbourhood Association, Grange Community Association, Harbord Village Residents Association, Liberty Village Residents Association, Moss Park Coalition, Regent Park Neighbourhood Association, Corktown Residents and Business Association, Parkdale Residents Association, Save Jimmie Simpson Group, Thorncliffe and Flemingdon neighborhoods.*

**BOLD**  
**COALITION**  
**BUILD ONTARIO LINE**  
**DIFFERENTLY**