



NOTICE OF MOTION

Protecting the Ontario Science Center Building and Preserving Recreation Assets for Flemingdon and Thorncliffe Park Residents

Moved by: **Councillor Matlow**

Seconded by: **Councillor Burnside**

SUMMARY:

In June 2024, the Provincial Government announced its intention to move the Ontario Science Centre to a much smaller location at Ontario Place, and closed the Science Centre Building at 770 Don Mills Road. This announcement was done without consultation with residents of Flemingdon Park and Thorncliffe Park, who relied on the Centre for employment and education opportunities.

Over 96,000 letters regarding the importance of the Science Centre have been sent to Premier Ford through the Save Ontario Science Centre campaign. The City of Toronto has an obligation to explore all possible means to keep the Science Centre at its current location in spite of the Province's current plans.

The future of the Science Centre or STEM-related programming at 770 Don Mills depends on the upkeep of the building. The province has obligations to maintain the building under the lease, but City Council has not received information verifying that the building is being adequately maintained. One key concern is that if the province is not turning on the heat during this winter, the building's condition could deteriorate at an accelerated pace. This motion requests the Province of Ontario provide timely information about the current condition of the building and any investments that have been implemented or are planned.

Furthermore, the Teluscape Exploration Plaza at 770 Don Mills, which is a free interactive outdoor venue containing park space and public art, has been significantly impacted by the province's closure of the building and the current Ontario Line construction staging. It is critical that this outdoor asset be preserved as recreation

space and public access is protected for the benefit of Thorncliffe and Flemingdon communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council requests the Province of Ontario to provide a comprehensive update on:
 - a. the current condition of the Ontario Science Centre buildings;
 - b. the status of all major state of good repair investments that have occurred in the Science Centre buildings since June 21, 2024, and
 - c. any building stabilization activities that have been or will be implemented.
2. City Council request the Province of Ontario to maintain the outdoor landscaping and activity installations at the Science Centre site located at 770 Don Mills Road, including the Teluscape Exploration Plaza, and provide public access to serve the recreation needs of the Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park Communities.