



A New Civic Movement for A Better Toronto

36 Toronto Street, Unit 850 | Toronto, Ontario | M5C 2C6 | (416) 805-2319 | daniel@integrityto.ca

---

November 7, 2025

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
2nd Floor, West Tower  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: MM34.4 - Protecting Playgrounds and Parks: Ensuring Safety for Children and Families

Dear Council Members,

Public parks are among our city's most valuable and cherished assets. They provide residents with a place for recreation, relaxation, and relief from the pressures of urban life. In a city as dense and built-up as Toronto, these green spaces are vital sanctuaries - true urban oases that must be protected as the precious public resources they are.

Residents fund the upkeep and operation of these parks through ever-increasing taxes and user fees. They have a **right** to enjoy these spaces safely – to walk, play, and spend time with their families without fear of encountering drug use, unstable individuals, criminal activity, or unsafe conditions.

We all recognize that homelessness is a serious challenge. We also know it is fuelled by an epidemic of opiate abuse. But we cannot allow public parks to serve as open-air encampments. Allowing tents, drug use, fires, and even makeshift electrical hookups (see the siphoning of electrical power in Little Norway Park) is neither safe nor sustainable.

The encampment at Dufferin Grove made this abundantly clear: it took nearly 90 weeks and millions of taxpayer dollars to clear, leaving the park damaged, unsafe, and unusable for the surrounding community. Families were deprived of using the park, while masked activists used the park as their personal camp, lighting fires, engaging in drug use, and threatening residents. I know this from firsthand experience.

This cannot stand.

Toronto needs moral clarity and strong leadership. This motion reflects the will of a massive majority of residents who expect their public spaces to be protected and safe. Council must send a clear message that our parks belong to everyone – and that they will remain clean, safe, and welcoming for law-abiding residents, families and children.

The time to send that message is now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Tate", written in a cursive style.

Daniel Tate  
Executive Director, IntegrityTO