

November 11, 2025

To:

City Clerk
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Email: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Subject: Support for MM34.4 Protecting Playgrounds and Parks: Ensuring Safety for Children and Families.
Submission for the Public Record

Please circulate this email to every council member ahead of the meeting. We request that these comments be publicly visible online and understand that these comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that our name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, we understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and our name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of the **New Toronto Initiative**, we are writing to express our strong support for **MM34.4 – Protecting Playgrounds and Parks: Ensuring Safety for Children and Families**, introduced by Councillor Brad Bradford and seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside.

Toronto's parks are the heart of our neighbourhoods. They are the places where families gather, children play, and communities thrive. These public spaces must remain safe and accessible to everyone, particularly our most vulnerable residents - our children.

Encampments located within or near playgrounds, schools, and daycares have created serious safety and health concerns for families across the city. Residents have reported exposure to unsafe and distressing conditions, including discarded needles, open drug use, and increased violence. These environments destabilize the intended purpose of parks as secure, inclusive community spaces.

The New Toronto Initiative supports the proposed amendment to the **City of Toronto Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments**, requiring the **removal of encampments within 200 metres of schools, daycares, or playgrounds within 48 hours of being reported**. This motion strikes an appropriate and compassionate balance between the need to safeguard our public spaces and the need to support individuals experiencing homelessness through safer, more sustainable housing solutions.

We are calling on **every member of Toronto City Council to vote in favour of MM34.4**. This is not a partisan issue, it is a matter of protecting children, preserving the integrity of our parks, and ensuring that Toronto remains a city where families can feel safe in their communities. Each councillor has the opportunity and responsibility to safeguard these shared public spaces for everyone.

Every child in Toronto deserves access to clean, safe, and welcoming parks. By supporting MM34.4, City Council will be taking an important step toward protecting the well-being of children and families while ensuring that parks remain places of connection and community pride.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to making Toronto's public spaces safe and inclusive for all residents.

Sincerely,

Cameron Ley

on behalf of New Toronto Initiative (NTI)
residents@newtorontoinitiative.ca