

January 13, 2025

Toronto and East York Community Council

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Toronto and East York Community Council,

Re: TE19.2 450 Dufferin Street

We are parents at the Grove Community School, an alternative school focused on environmental education, community activism and social justice and are hosted within Alexander Muir Gladstone Junior and Senior Public School.

We want to begin by acknowledging the urgency and importance of addressing our housing crisis. The 6 affordable housing units that will be included in this development is what we need much more of. However, we are concerned about the shadow this 18 story building will cast on our school, and its impact on the well-being of the over 600 children who attend this public school.

Please find below the shadow study for the month of December. We have added the location of the jungle gym, represented by the purple dot. Our schoolyard is worn out and offers limited amenities to keep children engaged. The jungle gym is the heart of their playtime. However, as the study illustrates, the jungle gym and surrounding area would be cast in shade during afternoon recess, a critical time for outdoor play. Additionally, some classrooms will lose their afternoon sunlight.

There are no shadow studies available for the months of October, November, January or February, but based on the September, December and March studies, it's reasonable to anticipate that shadowing on school grounds will persist during the months in between. Winter sunlight is already limited, with up to six fewer hours of daylight per day, making every moment of sunshine for the school and the schoolyard invaluable. With less sunlight and no funding available to upgrade our aging schoolyard, this shadow will diminish the already limited opportunities for quality outdoor play.

We understand that City staff have deemed the shadow impacts to be acceptable, but we urge you to consider these impacts from a parent and caregivers perspective. We are concerned that the well-being of our children may not have been fully accounted for.

We respectfully ask the City to explore solutions that mitigate the shadow impacts on the school playground, ensuring children can continue enjoying outdoor play, particularly during the winter months.

On a final note, we want to acknowledge the danger heavy trucks and construction sites pose to vulnerable road users. With two deaths of vulnerable road users just last year due to these construction-related dangers, we urge the city to require a detailed and comprehensive construction safety plan that prioritizes the protection of children and all vulnerable road users during the building phase. This should include measures such as upgrading the dangerous 4 lane crosswalk on Dufferin to a traffic light, restricting deliveries from heavy trucks during drop-off, lunch, and pick-up times as well as routine inspection of the construction site to ensure safe practices.

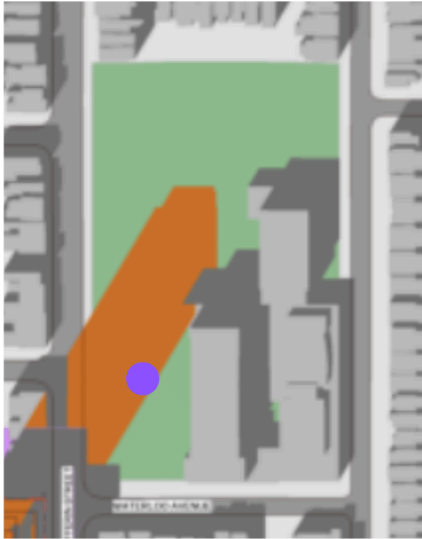
Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Erinn Brush, Co-Chair
Michelle Gholizadeh, Treasurer
Rebecca Singh, Community Engagement Chair
Patricia Tuff, Community Engagement Chair

Shadow on Alexander Muir Gladstone and The Grove Community School

December



1:18pm



2:18pm



3:18pm