June 4, 2025

RE: TE23.29 Ontario Line – Construction Update – Second Quarter

I am writing to you on behalf of the Moss Park Coalition in relation to item TE 23.29.

We have been meeting with Metrolinx to discuss Moss Park Station and Community Benefits for the Moss Park Community since 2021. During this time, much of our conversations have been advocating for good jobs and training opportunities for Moss Park Residents, and our asks have been aligned with the program that Metrolinx delivered in its Eglinton Crosstown LRT project. During these discussions Metrolinx repeatedly told us that that they hear us, they understand our ask, and that they have programs that will facilitate the delivery of these Community Benefits to the Moss Park Neighbourhood.

We have been to each CLC meeting held in Moss Park, every open house, and community event, and we always ask them when the Moss Park community can expect job and training opportunities like the ones that were delivered for the Crosstown project (page 6 of this document shows what was previously accomplished). We were told by Metrolinx and its contractors that a job fair would be held in Moss Park, but they have since failed to honour this commitment. At these meetings we ask if they have hired a single person from Moss Park, and they always promise to get back to us, but never do.

With years of failed promises and no jobs delivered to Moss Park residents, we are incredibly disappointed to now hear that Metrolinx considers its Community Benefits program to be "successful". They may have reached hiring targets, but they shut us out completely.

To make matters worse, they are now refusing to answer questions from the community about jobs, and at the last Moss Park CLC meeting, the head of community engagement for the Ontario Line banned Moss Park residents from asking any further questions about jobs.

Metrolinx might have successfully developed a "diversity hiring program" but it is a far cry from the Community Benefits program that they are known for. Their current approach is not achieving the co-development, trust, and community participation that is needed to be successful. While we are disappointed by the results so far, there is still time to get this program back on track, and we would like to thank this Committee for their continued support on this important matter.

Regards,

David Anderson Moss Park Coalition