

Dear Members of Toronto and East York Community Council,

## TE25.9 - 26 Laing Street - Zoning By-law Amendment Application - Decision Report - Approval

## About More Neighbours Toronto

More Neighbours Toronto is a volunteer-only organization of housing advocates that believe in building more multi-family homes of all kinds for those who dream of building their lives in Toronto. We advocate for reforms to increase our city's ability to build more homes in every neighbourhood. We are a big-tent organization with members across the political spectrum who are committed to counterbalancing the anti-housing agenda that has dominated Toronto's politics, created an affordability crisis, and cost burdened a new generation of aspiring residents. We are firmly committed to the principle that housing is a human right and believe Toronto should be inclusive and welcoming to all.

## **Position**

More Neighbours Toronto strongly supports this Zoning By-law Amendment. This development will create 170 much-needed housing units, including 18 three-bedroom units suitable for families. The location at Eastern Avenue and Laing Street is exceptionally well-positioned for increased density, with outstanding transit connections both current and planned, extensive cycling infrastructure, and proximity to vibrant commercial districts.

The site benefits from exceptional transit access that will only improve over time. It is one block south of Queen Street East, served by the 501 Queen streetcar that provides direct access to downtown. Eastern Avenue already has dedicated bike lanes, and the area is part of Toronto's expanding cycling network that makes car-free living increasingly viable.

We encourage members of the Community Council to approve this project, and to work with City Planning staff to continue to refine and reform our planning processes and By-laws to make projects like this faster and easier to build in all areas of the city. Toronto needs more housing near transit, and this development exemplifies the kind of transit-oriented, mid-rise development that should be encouraged throughout our city.

Regards,

Will de la Guardia, More Neighbours Toronto