

Dear Members of Toronto and East York Community Council,

TE27.16 - 543-555 Yonge 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 679 much-needed housing units at 543-555 Yonge Street, directly adjacent to Wellesley subway station on Line 1. The site is less than 100 metres from the subway entrance, making this a textbook example of transit-oriented development. Wellesley station provides rapid subway service to the entire city, plus multiple bus routes including the 94 Wellesley connecting east-west. The area also benefits from protected cycle tracks on Wellesley Street that connect to the broader cycling network, supporting car-light living.

Yonge Street between Bloor and Queen is one of the most transit-rich corridors in Canada, and the surrounding blocks have already seen similar and taller developments approved and built. The site currently houses a four-storey building, and dramatically increasing density here makes efficient use of existing infrastructure while supporting the thousands of residents who already call this area home.

We encourage members of the Community Council to approve this project. Toronto's housing crisis demands that we build substantial new housing in locations with exceptional transit access like this one. High-rise development on major transit corridors is exactly what our city needs.

Regards,

Will de la Guardia, More Neighbours Toronto