

January 21, 2026

Toronto City Council
City Planning Division
City of Toronto

RE: Opposition to Rezoning and Proposed Housing Development at 125 The Queensway – Protection of Employment Lands Adjacent to the Ontario Food Terminal

Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers (OGVG) and our members are writing to express strong opposition to any rezoning that would permit residential development at 125 The Queensway. We urge Council to maintain the site as designated employment lands to ensure the long-term protection and functionality of the Ontario Food Terminal (OFT).

The OFT is a critical component of Ontario's agri-food supply chain, serving as a central hub that connects farmers to retailers, foodservice operators, and communities across the province. Greenhouse vegetable growers provide year-round production to provide highly perishable, and logically sensitive produce to the OFT. The OFT is essential to maintaining food sovereignty, supply chain resilience, and the affordability of fresh produce for Ontarians. Introducing residential density immediately adjacent to this facility would create land-use conflicts that are both foreseeable and avoidable. who have adopted year-round

The OFT relies on 24-hour operations, including overnight trucking, early-morning loading, refrigeration, and constant vehicle movement. These activities are fundamental to its function and cannot be constrained without compromising the broader food system. Residential development next door would inevitably generate noise, traffic, and air-quality complaints, leading to political pressure to curtail exactly the activities that make the Terminal viable.

The agri-food system is already under strain from extreme weather, transportation disruptions, labour shortages, and global uncertainty. Increasing the residential density in this area would compound congestion around the OFT to further restrict the industrial land base required to support efficient food distribution. Any erosion of the Terminal's operational capacity ultimately affects food affordability and availability for millions of people. Maintaining 125 The Queensway as employment land is consistent with the City of Toronto's stated commitments under the Toronto Food Charter, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Black Food Sovereignty Plan, and international food policy frameworks. These commitments recognize the importance of resilient, equitable, and accessible food systems that depend on the protection of strategically located lands.

The OFT is not simply a marketplace; it is a vital piece of provincial infrastructure that underpins Ontario agriculture and supports food access across the region. Its continued success depends on being

surrounded by compatible industrial and employment uses.

OGVG respectfully urge City Council to maintain 125 The Queensway as designated employment land and ensure that no rezoning or development approvals are granted that could hinder or compromise the operations of the OFT.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the needs of Ontario farmers and the food system that supports communities across the province.

Sincerely,



Richard Lee
Executive Director

