

May 13, 2026

To: Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of City Council

Re: Agenda Item - TE32.11, May 20, 2026
(Proposed Redevelopment – 23 Toronto Street)

The Cathedral
Church
of St. James

DIOCESE OF TORONTO
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



As the Corporation of St. James Cathedral, we write to express our concerns about the development project which is proposed for the site at 23 Toronto Street.

St. James Cathedral has existed at the corner of Church and King Streets for more than one hundred and fifty years. It is one of the most beautiful and historically significant structures in the entire city of Toronto. (We reference the sunlit photos sent to you by Spire Condominium which show the Cathedral beautifully illuminated in full sunlight).

While we understand the initiative of intensifying density near transit, we feel strongly that a 90-storey building in this particular location is excessive. Our most significant concern is the shadowing that will result across the Cathedral, the Cathedral's event venue, and St. James Park in the late afternoon and evening. Many of our staff and parishioners live in the area and use the park, and will be impacted by deep shadows during their precious recreation time. The park, with its gardens, fountain, children's play area and benches is also heavily used by area families. Shadowing in the late afternoon and evening will be unpleasant for those wishing to enjoy outdoor space in the summer near their downtown homes. Similar concerns apply to the project planned for 59-65 Adelaide Street East. The two locations will have a cumulative effect upon the time during which the Cathedral and the park are subject to shadows.

We ask that you give serious consideration to reducing the height of the proposed development to a more reasonable level before approving this project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Toronto".

The Right Reverend Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Hance".

The Very Rev'd Dr. Stephen Hance
Rector of St. James Cathedral & Dean of Toronto

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah McKinnon".

Sarah McKinnon
Rector's Warden

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Mowat".

Sandra Mowat
People's Warden