

Mrs. Kathryn A. Holden
701-62 Wellesley Street West,
Toronto ON M5S 2X3
416 927-8190

kathrynaholden@sympatico.ca

Monday, June 22, 2026

councilmeeting@toronto.ca

City Council, Toronto City Hall **IE30.8 Queen's Park North Donation - Concept Plan Update Report**
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

My Personal and Basic Truths about the Purpose of City Hall

1. It is a forum to allow plans within a given community to be thoroughly discussed and shaped to the actual needs of the community under discussion.
2. At the simplest level, a Council decision should be to serve the needs, circumstances, and the maximum potential for growth and betterment for smaller and larger communities within the City of Toronto.

The Weston Legacy Gift for Queen's Park North:

Today, Council and the public are meeting to discuss issues arising from this enormous gift of funding for a public park, namely, \$50 million for the improvement and animation of Queen's Park North.

- This donation is unique in that it is said to be the Largest Donation Ever to be Received by the City of Toronto. As such, the donation is very very welcome but it has created issues that I have never observed in over 2 decades of deputing before City Council.
- this is my first exposure to withholding of information/Secrecy being a barrier blocking information needed by the community to make a vital community informed decision.
- The amount of the gift has taken precedence over the common sense of good planning for this park renewal. The central portion of the park is being over-loaded with plans for numerous elements—a complete impossibility of location.
- Just look at the list: food services, program space, a splash pad, ceremonial gardens and the Indigenous fire. All are planned for the centre of the park amidst the oldest largest and most precious trees. And where will the washrooms be?

Councillors, you can see that someone knows many details that are not being shared.

We, the residents, do not have the 'real' information. We need to hear the facts. We need to make a community decision based on all of the facts. The Council needs to hear what the citizens think! The air of secrecy around the decisions that must be made seems to be excluding the very people who live in and around the QPN site. These are the people who have loved, protected, and cared for this park over drastic times of over-use and destruction of our park, a park which is significant because of its location but also because of its name.

After all, City Council may not actually use the park but they have the power to make decisions that impact the use of the park for decades and generations to come.

I ask you, the Sitting Council for our Downtown Toronto area, make it possible for all of us to share the information and let all of us, the citizens, be part of good decisions that will make this a great park for those who will use this park for the next 150 years.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Holden BCCA Member, Development Coordinator

CC: Councillor Saxe Councillor_Saxe@toronto.ca