



June 22, 2026

councilmeeting@toronto.ca

100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow and City Councillors

Re: 2026.IE30.8 - Queen's Park North Donation - Concept Plan Update Report

Friends of Queen's Park North represents seven Residents' Associations committed to participation and collaboration in continuing discussions as plans are developed with necessary detail and as the revitalization of Queen's Park North is realized. We have participated fully in public engagement sessions since August 2025.

The March 10th Executive Committee meeting marked a welcome turning point in the thought process of the design of Queen's Park North. Everyone at that meeting agreed that it is a much-loved historic public asset with its own distinctive sense of place and character.

The City's Design Review Panel echoed the same comments, indicating that a forest management plan should be the starting point for design, and that design elements should be reconsidered, questioning the extent of the robust program and number of program elements.

FoQPN submitted detailed information supporting the three-pillar concept of the park as a green oasis having its own sense of place and character, the park honouring and preserving the cultural heritage and the ecologically significant area with old growth forest.

While progress has been made, today's staff report continues to poorly define the ongoing process of design element evaluation and approval. The staff report contradicts the direction of the motions from the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A Working Group will be put in place to evaluate the concept as it moves through the detail design stage. However, the terms of the donation agreement must allow for meaningful change, otherwise the task assigned to the Working Group will be futile. The terms of the donation agreement appear not to allow change.

FoQPN has repeatedly inquired whether advanced drawings were underway. The answer has always been no. The result of an FOI disclosed detailed measured plans available since January 27, 2026. Only squiggle diagrams and doodles have been made available during the public engagement process. Why have these been held back?

The food service feasibility analysis has also not been made available to the public. At the May 11, 2026 meeting the public was advised that the feasibility study was incomplete and details could not be discussed. By June 8, 2026 recommendations from the feasibility study and analysis prepared by Fifteen Group were made available in the staff report, 48 hours before Committee discussions. The restaurant, now termed café (in name only) has been the subject of considerable discussion between the University of Toronto and City of Toronto's Corporate Real Estate Management department. The report states that CREM draws on its experience at major city sites such as St. Lawrence Market, Union Station and City Hall. How are these comparable to Queen's Park North?

There has been no transparency on commitments made to the donor with respect to proposed elements. Are the hands of the working group tied by a prior agreement between the city and the donor? The public has requested this information several times and has been denied an answer. Why else would the same concept from November 2025 continue to be displayed seven months later?

The City's website touts public engagement based on the International Association of Public Participation suggesting a high standard of consultation and transparency. If open consultation and transparency are paramount, why has the Weston Foundation retained Wright Strategies as lobbyists approaching Councillors and senior City staff and the Oyster Group, experts in crisis management providing discreet support to influence the outcome?

We request:

- 1. An answer to the question of whether the terms of the agreement have given the donor control of the proposed design elements, their size and locations. There must be no such control for the Working Group to be effective.**
- 2. That the final plans return to the infrastructure and Environment Committee for approval, allowing for the public deputations. There is not enough detail now to even approve the concept in its current form.**

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Sisam
Friends of Queen's Park North