



June 22, 2026

councilmeeting@toronto.ca

To: Toronto City Council

Re: 2026.IE30.8 –Queen’s Park North Donation – Concept Plan Update Report

Dear Councillors,

The Greater Yorkville Residents’ Association is comprised of 54 condominium and select rental buildings, home to well over 12,000 residents in the Greater Yorkville area, which abuts the Queen’s Park Precinct in immediate proximity to Queen’s Park North. We are also a member of the Friends of Queen’s Park North and have participated in ongoing discussions since the project was announced.

We want to express our gratitude to the Weston Foundation for their very generous philanthropic pledge to revitalize Queen’s Park North. This is a profound historical, cultural, ecologically significant area with old growth forest and mature tree canopy. It is an historic public asset with its own distinctive sense of place and character, which must be respected and preserved. The community has continually voiced concerns regarding irreparable damage that will occur to old growth trees, mature tree canopy, and heritage resources.

Unfortunately, although several adjustments have been made to the plan, the current draft plan remains flawed. The inclusion of a ‘modest café’ of 2700 sf with indoor seating for 40 and outdoor seating for between 80 – 100 seats, plus second building 500 sf in size co-located in the centre of the park will cause irreparable damage to the heart of QPN. This together with the other program elements contain far too much program for this area of respite, the green oasis the community seeks to preserve.

By the time this plan is implemented, Queen’s Park North as we know it, a place of forest, nature, respite, will have disappeared. Once it’s gone, it’s gone.

What remains unclear and unanswered is whether the Weston donation has required that all of the design elements are to be included as a condition of the gift. Perhaps that is why there has been so little change to the concept over this past year. Is change permitted? There has been no response from City staff.

We urge the City Council to:

1. Provide 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. If that control exists, the proposed Working Group cannot be effective - the results of the assessments will not be able to alter the size of the café or any of the other elements or eliminate them.
2. Require that the final plans return to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for approval (the only opportunity for the public to make depositions) after detail design evaluation is completed by the Working Group. There is not enough detail now as illustrated in the Concept Plan, Appendix 2 to approve the concept in its current form.

Sincerely,
Alan Baker
President
GYRA - Greater Yorkville Residents' Association