



To: Economic and Community Development Committee / City Clerk

Re: Item 2026.EC29.12 — Community Engagement Process to Assess Local Community Support for Echoes and Nighttime Closure of Barbara Hall Park

Dear Councillor Bravo and Members of the City of Toronto Economic and Community Development Committee,

On behalf of Peterborough AIDS Resource Network (PARN), I am writing to submit this public letter for distribution to the Economic and Community Development Committee as part of Item 2026.EC29.12.

PARN endorsed The AIDS Memorial Project's *Echoes* proposal because the history and cultural significance of the quilt matters in areas across Ontario and Canada. The privilege to support the maintenance and dignity of the memorial is vital in the history of the AIDS movement in Peterborough Ontario.

We urge the Committee to separate the future of The AIDS Memorial (Toronto) from the debate about fencing or nighttime closure of Barbara Hall Park.

The AIDS Memorial must be considered on its own terms: as a site of mourning, naming, public memory, dignity, and recognition for people who died of AIDS and for people living with HIV today. It should not be embedded in an agenda item framed around crime, safety, disorder, and enforcement.

This distinction matters. Committee may amend or strike recommendations, but it cannot rewrite the summary text of the existing item. Even if the fence recommendation is removed, The AIDS Memorial would still remain attached in the public record to an item whose framing is fundamentally about public safety and park disorder. That is not an appropriate civic frame for a memorial to people who died of AIDS and those living with HIV.

Echoes is a community-led proposal for the restoration and expansion of The AIDS Memorial. It has been endorsed by more than 45 AIDS service and HIV/AIDS organizations from across Ontario and Canada, four leading local trans organizations, and the Church-Wellesley Neighbourhood Association. This is a broad and serious community consensus.

PARN asks the Committee to:

1. Support a new and separate business item on The AIDS Memorial and *Echoes*, introduced by a councillor other than Councillor Moise.
2. Recognize The AIDS Memorial (Toronto) as a memorial of national significance.
3. Endorse *Echoes* as the principal framework for the restoration, expansion, interpretation, and long-term recognition of The AIDS Memorial.
4. Direct the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to continue working with the HIV-positive community to integrate *Echoes* into the final design for The AIDS Memorial at Barbara Hall Park.

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5. Delete Recommendation 1 from EC29.12 so the existing item no longer uses *Echoes* or The AIDS Memorial as part of the debate over fencing and nighttime closure.
6. Reject the proposed fencing or nighttime closure of Barbara Hall Park, and reject any approach that displaces unhoused people and people experiencing mental health crises instead of addressing the conditions they face.

Councillor Moise's motion created unnecessary harm by tying a broadly supported memorial proposal to a divisive park-closure debate. The community should not now be asked to accept that framing, nor should the repair of this situation be converted into political credit for the councillor who caused the problem.

The AIDS Memorial belongs to a much larger community than one ward. It holds the names, grief, memory, and history of people from across Toronto, Ontario, and Canada. **There are people living with HIV, and people who have died of AIDS, in your city and beyond, hence our need to support this advocacy. There have also been lives, lost in Peterborough, cared by people in Peterborough, who travelled from Toronto for work to care for their loved ones at their homes. Please remember this, as this important decision is made, as the result will impact communities outside of the greater Toronto area.**

The Committee should do the right thing: separate the memorial from the fence debate, support a new motion on *Echoes*, and allow The AIDS Memorial to be treated with due respect.

Sincerely,

Dane Record
Executive Director
Peterborough AIDS Resource Network