



March 9th, 2026

Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of the Executive Committee  
c/o City Clerk  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: Executive Committee Item EX29.3 – Update on Weston Foundation for Queen’s Park North Revitalization**

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of the Executive Committee,

ABCRA represents residents across the Bloor-Yorkville area, Midtown, and the neighbourhood immediately north of Queen’s Park. For many residents in our area, Queen’s Park North is only a few minutes’ walk from home and serves as an important place of quiet green space in the City’s hectic and intense core.

We first want to acknowledge and thank the Weston Foundation for their pledge to revitalize Queens Park North. This contribution represents an important opportunity to secure the future of one of Toronto’s most valued public spaces. Queens Park north is a place of historic, cultural and ecological significance defined by its old growth, tree canopy, and unique character. It is essential that any plan for its renewal respect and preserves these qualities.

Unfortunately, the current draft concept plan does not achieve this. It appears overbuilt for the site and introduces an excessive amount of hard infrastructure that would irreversibly alter the park’s character, imperil trees and diminish its role as a vital place of respite in an increasingly dense downtown.

Further, if the staff recommendations are approved as written, staff would have full authority to enter contracts, approve the plan and proceed without tender, effectively removing City Council and the public from meaningful oversight. For these reasons, we strongly urge the Executive Committee not to approve the recommendations before you and instead refer the report back to staff.

We request the Executive Committee:

1. Direct the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to complete and document the outcomes of the community consultation process currently in progress, continue design development from this and previous public input, and bring both the

revised draft final design and a Forest Management Plan to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for consideration and approval before any implementation proceeds.

While we appreciate the concerns raised in Councillor Dianne Saxe's March 3 letter, we believe the current staff recommendations still leave important issues unresolved. Delegating full responsibility for this iconic public space to staff without Council oversight would be inappropriate and contrary to the public interest.

Key program elements must be thoroughly evaluated before any contract drawings or construction proceed. Community feedback has been consistent: the proposed elements, including a large restaurant, several structured garden elements, and a raised walkway, are not appropriate for this small urban park. At the March 5 public meeting, not even one of the 45 in-person or 30 virtual participants spoke in support of the concept plan. Yet the design remains largely unchanged, suggesting a consultation process that has not been responsive to public input.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Executive Committee to refer this report back to staff.

Yours truly,

The ABC Residents Association,  
Ian Carmichael and John Caliendo,  
Co-Chairs  
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The ABC Residents Association is a volunteer organization committed to enhancing the quality of life in our neighbourhood through active participation in municipal issues. We serve the residents living in Toronto's Yorkville / North Midtown community between Yonge Street west to Avenue Road and Bloor Street north to the CPR tracks