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March 20, 2026

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: MM39.51 - Fighting for Ontario Place and Ontario's Democracy**

Dear Councillor Matlow, Deputy Mayor Malik, and members of City Council,

The Ontario government's scheme to privatise our public space by razing Ontario Place is part of their disturbing pattern of costly and undemocratic meddling in municipal affairs.

Case in point: Cycle Toronto and our co-applicants were back in court in January 2026 to defend our successful Charter challenge against Ontario's Bill 212. The province appealed the July 2025 decision that found their plan to rip up 19 kilometres of protected bike lanes to be unconstitutional and a violation of Section 7 of the Charter. Key to our arguments were **internal government documents confirming that the province's own experts concluded that bike lanes do not cause traffic congestion and that removing them would put people's lives at risk.**<sup>1</sup>

Our case against Bill 212 isn't about bike lanes. It's about defending local democracy, and upholding evidence-based decision making against arbitrary and reckless legislation. As Andrew Coyne wrote in a *Globe & Mail* op ed defending the court's ruling,

*It simply requires that before a government takes the extraordinary step of ordering the removal of lanes that have already been built – an action guaranteed to cost some lives and put many more in peril – it ought at least to have some basis in evidence or logic for doing so.*<sup>2</sup>

While the decision on our appeal is still pending (and may be months away), Cycle Toronto strongly supports the City of Toronto in standing up to protect the rule of law and local democracy, including in the Ontario Place case now before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Torontonians are fed up with being bullied by this provincial government, and they need to know that City Hall has their backs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Longfield".

Michael Longfield  
Executive Director

*Cycle Toronto is a member supported charity that's been leading the change for a healthier, more vibrant cycling city since 2008.*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-bike-lanes-internal-documents-1.7481729>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-ontario-bike-lane-doug-ford/>