



March 24, 2026

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Sylwia Przewdziecki

RE: MM39.59 Toronto Must Have a Say in Waterfront Decisions - by Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow (Ward All)

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

The Federation of North Toronto Residents Associations is a community based organization that represents over 35 resident associations in North Toronto and North York, and works to bring forward a coordinated and informed perspective on the City's land use and transportation issues affecting the neighbourhoods, and the City as a whole.

We are strongly in support of the Members Motion:

- City Council request the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario to include Toronto residents and their democratically elected municipal government in all significant decisions impacting Toronto, including decisions about the uses and future of the Toronto waterfront.
- City Council opposes any unilateral expropriation of City land by the Government of Canada or Government of Ontario.

Decisions by governments with respect to the Waterfront are a matter of interest and concern for residents in the Waterfront area, but also for residents elsewhere in the city. The Waterfront is an iconic place, a resource and an asset to all Toronto residents, and its wise management is critical. In that regard the suggestion or even more, taking action to remove the "say" of the representatives of the residents of Toronto from the decision making is confounding, astounding, and profoundly undemocratic.

In this regard we agree with the commentary by FoSTRA our sister organization:¹

¹ (March 23, 2026) Letter from Rick Green, Chair, Federation of South Toronto Residents' Associations (MM.Supp)

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2026/mm/comm/communicationfile-206306.pdf>

“As an organization dedicated to local advocacy and ensuring residents have a meaningful voice in the evolution of their city and communities, we consider it fundamental to democracy that all orders of government must include the residents of our city, and their elected municipal representatives in all decisions about the future of our city, including our waterfront. This includes opposing the unilateral expropriation of any land within the City of Toronto”.

The FoSTRA submission goes on to describe the recent history of the Billy Bishop Airport and contextual transportation matters (like the UP Express) which has led to the current balanced approach that preserves the airport’s existing commercial operations while having the lowest incremental negative impacts on livability on Toronto’s waterfront.

Again, we agree that “The imposition by the Province of ill-conceived major changes around our waterfront would only exacerbate the scale of these challenges. It is vital that Toronto’s residents have a say in decisions about the future of our waterfront”.

As such we urge City Council to approve the Motion.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel

Geoff Kettel
Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Rick Green. Chair, Federation of South Toronto Residents Assns (FoSTRA)

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents’ associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents’ associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.