



# IATSE 873

82 Carnforth Road  
Toronto, ON M4A 2K7  
Canada

T 416 368 1873  
F 416 368 8457  
[WWW.IATSE873.COM](http://WWW.IATSE873.COM)

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Toronto and East York Community Council  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: Toronto and East York Community Council  
Agenda Item – 2026.TE29.14**

I am writing to comment on the above referenced agenda item.

IATSE 873 represents the thousands of skilled technicians behind motion picture productions in Toronto. IATSE 873 is a part of the IATSE International, the largest union in the entertainment industry, representing more than 360 film Locals across the United States and Canada. Of these Locals, 873 is the second largest in Canada and works hard every day to continue to make Toronto one of the top production destinations in the world. Our members are celebrated internationally for their skills and expertise and have won, or have been nominated for, awards including: Academy Awards, Primetime Emmy Awards, Canadian Screen Awards, British Academy Film Awards, and many more.

Toronto's film and television industry generates \$2.6 billion in direct annual production spending and supports roughly 45,000 Torontonians in largely unionized, well-paid employment. The success of this industry depends on the long-term protection of studio spaces, large-scale filming environments, and production-related businesses.

The Hearn is one of Toronto's most irreplaceable filming locations. The Richard L. Hearn Generating Station, a designated heritage structure, provides the scale, architectural character, and flexibility that no conventional studio can replicate. Its vast interior and industrial setting have supported countless major productions over decades. Once compromised by incompatible uses, this unique filming location cannot be restored.

The Hearn is also part of a broader Port Lands production cluster that forms the backbone of Toronto's screen-based industry. This cluster of studios and production facilities provides critical scale, operational flexibility, and proximity to location shooting that allows Toronto to compete globally for major film and television productions. Residential development on or near the Hearn would disrupt this ecosystem, limiting operational capacity and threatening thousands of existing jobs in the sector.

IATSE Local 873 and the film industry cannot support any land use planning changes that weaken our economic future and reduce our competitiveness on the global stage. Without a hub of studio spaces and production-related businesses to attract productions, we cannot be expected to continue to prosper. The importance of our industry to Toronto, and the province as a whole, needs to be recognized and protected to ensure the future of this industry.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,  
Angela Mastronardi  
President IATSE Local 873