

March 23, 2026

To: Toronto and East York Community Council (TEYCC)

**TE31.1 - Renaming of Chestnut Street Extending between Edward Street and Elm Street**

This is advise that we support the renaming of this portion of Chestnut Street to honour the exemplary contributions of Heather McGregor

I noted in my previous letter (February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026) to TEYCC that I had the privilege of working with Heather McGregor while I served as a board member of the YWCA Toronto. Prior to her appointment as the CEO of YWCA Toronto, Heather served the Grange neighbourhood, where I live, as the Executive Director of the University Settlement House.

I was a member of the Toronto Public Service from 1981 to 2010, during which time I noted the important role and leadership which Heather provided on many important issues. I was involved with administering the selection process for the Constance E Hamilton Award given by City Council in 2008 as recommended by the Women Members of City Council. Heather receipt of that award was enthusiastically approved by all those involved in the process. In 2014, I served as an Interim City Councillor and continued to have a first hand view of the important role played by the YWCA Toronto, led by Heather.

Heather's contributions have been honoured with an appointment to the Order of Canada (2022) as well as an honorary doctorate (2017) honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly known as Ryerson University).

In addition to providing a full array of services, the YWCA Toronto has played a central advocacy role on many equity and human rights issues, including serving as a founder of the Equal Pay Coalition.

Former Councillor Kyle Rae was instrumental in providing an opportunity for the YWCA Toronto to establish its head office at 87 Elm Street and to create affordable housing on the site.



Ceta Ramkhalawansingh