

Toronto and East York Community Council

43 communications with similar text were received between Friday, May 29, 2026 at 7:49 p.m. to Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 2:41 p.m.

To: Toronto and East York Community Council <teycc@toronto.ca>

Re: Attention Premier Ford - Protect Toronto's Landmark Sneaky Dee's. - 20 190121 STE 11 OZ

Dear Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Mayor Olivia Chow, Chair and Members of the Toronto and East York Community Council, my local MPP, and the City Clerk,

Toronto City Council has advised members of the public that provincial intervention may be necessary to stop the proposed redevelopment of 419-431 College Street. I am writing to urge you to oppose the revised development application TE33.3 and to protect one of Toronto's most significant cultural institutions.

Sneaky Dee's and the surrounding College Street corridor have been an important part of my life. There are very few dedicated spaces for young people to connect with alternative communities, and I regularly travelled into Toronto specifically to attend events at Sneaky Dee's. Through its theme nights, live music, and welcoming atmosphere, I found a community and formed friendships that remain some of the most meaningful relationships in my life.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the revised Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment Application for 419-431 College Street, which would demolish Sneaky Dee's and neighbouring properties to make way for a 16-storey mixed-use condominium development.

Sneaky Dee's is far more than a building. For over 40 years, it has been a family-owned institution and a cornerstone of Toronto's alternative, punk, and independent music scenes. It has provided a vital platform for local artists and an accessible gathering place for communities that are increasingly being displaced by rising costs and redevelopment pressures.

For decades, it has served as a key player for local artists and a vital, accessible gathering space for subcultures that are increasingly being priced out of the city. While Toronto urgently needs different housing options, we cannot continue to achieve density by eradicating the very cultural foundation, legacy small businesses, and grassroots spaces that make our neighbourhoods worth living in.

The resurrection and upscaling of this proposal, which increases the height from 13 to 16 storeys, highlights a systemic threat to the area. Incremental land assemblies and high-density redevelopments are steadily pushing out the independent venues and small businesses that anchor the Bathurst and College intersection, as well as the adjacent Kensington Market and Palmerston-Little Italy communities. Promising a

generic corporate retail space or a downsized, tokenistic "potential music venue" at the base of a luxury condo tower does not repair or replace the authentic community wealth being lost.

We need the City to enforce real, binding protections for our cultural landmarks before the wrecking ball arrives:

We need the City to enforce real, binding protections for our cultural landmarks before the wrecking ball arrives:

- **Deny the requested Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments for 419-431 College Street in their current form.** Development on this site must be explicitly conditional on the guaranteed, uninterrupted preservation or authentic, non-corporate relocation of Sneaky Dee's.
- **Integrate strict cultural heritage protections into the ongoing planning frameworks for the area,** ensuring that intangible cultural heritage, such as long-standing live music venues and legacy, family-owned businesses, is given equal weight to architectural preservation.
- **Establish enforceable anti-displacement policies for small businesses within mixed-use zoning requirements.** Developers must be mandated to provide affordable, long-term commercial spaces to displaced local tenants rather than prioritizing corporate storefronts.
- **Deliver meaningful support for independent cultural spaces through public investment and community land trusts,** ensuring that Toronto's alternative and creative communities retain permanent, steward-led spaces in the downtown core.

Without concrete planning policies that explicitly protect independent cultural infrastructure, urban intensification will continue to hollow out the soul of Toronto.

I urge the Council to act with urgency, listen to the thousands of community members who rely on these spaces, and protect Sneaky Dee's and our city's living history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

From:

Denise Simpson

Jackson Hryciw

Yasmin Jung

Shannon Wood

David Bunn

Kelly Vong

Nicole Habib

Stephen Kamlasaran

Mike Allain

Dilara Leamen

Stan Kropa

Claire Whitehead

Kristin Lawrence

Cassandra Girgis

Ararad Nar

Peyton Tiller

Miguel Chevez

Karmah Dudin

Christine Rowe

Sarah Clinton

Karla Gray

Perth Raymond

Eric Kim

Kat Bowlby

Yobie Saravanabavan

Arbor Beaver

Roxi Stabs

Joana Pani

Caela Logan

Alida Parker

Tori Brown

Liam Johnston

Keith Berry

Erica Lombardo

Madison Bechard-Leblanc

Loren Siscar

Gregorio Pulcini

Gerrod Harris

Lucas Couto

Connor McCann

Santina Pallister

Regina Sy

Brianne Kinahan