



LYTTON PARK RESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION INC.  
Box 45031, 2482 Yonge Street  
Toronto, M4P 3E3

Via Email

DATE: December 21, 2016

TO: Councillor Christin Carmichael Greb, Councillor Jaye Robinson,  
Councillor Josh Matlow, Councillor Josh Colle, Councillor Joe Mihevc

SUBJECT: **Proposed closing of the North Toronto Memorial Community Centre  
from June 2017 to the end of 2018 for repairs and upgrades.**

The Lytton Park Residents' Organization Inc. represents approximately 3,000 households in the Lytton Park area bounded by Avenue Road, Lawrence Avenue West, Yonge Street and Roselawn Avenue. The North Toronto Memorial Community Centre ("NTMCC") is the only local community centre and it is heavily used by residents. We are asking that you consider putting the work at NTMCC on hold so that an assessment may be conducted to consider the expansion of the facility to accommodate a growing population in our area.

Compared to other neighbourhoods of similar population concentration and anticipated density, our area has a shortage of recreation facilities and public green space. Residents of our area are critically underserved, which is counter to the City of Toronto's equity policies. Closing down our only recreation facility for 18 months and putting the community through such hardship to only do repairs and not expansion, seems very short-sighted.

The Yonge-Eglinton area is expected to grow by approximately 20,000 more people in the next few years - mostly in high rise buildings. This population is large enough to justify a full suite of recreation and community services - pools, parks, gyms, libraries, meeting rooms, etc. - and yet no new community facilities are being announced to service this growing community; only repairs to an aging, already overburdened city community facility. We have been told the driving factor for the \$8M investment is the roof needs to be completely replaced. If the roof is coming off, perhaps a third storey could be built, and/or other expansion be constructed?

The scope of work outlined in an email from Councillor Carmichael Greb on December 7, 2016 to members of LPRO probably will result in some limited energy efficiency. The proposed upgrades however do not appear to address City policies with respect to significant greenhouse gas reductions, which could be achieved through renewable energy or other approaches such as district energy. Also there is no consideration of how the NTMCC could be upgraded to serve as a reception centre in case of a power disruption, extreme weather or other emergency. There is an acute shortage of city owned facilities fitted with backup power that can serve as reception

centres. With the appropriate upgrades, the NTMCC could become a key reception area for the many (aging) residents living in high rises in the area, who would be vulnerable in the event of another prolonged power outage. We direct your attention to the work of Toronto Public Health, the City's Environment and Energy Division, the Office of Emergency Management and the NGO Faith and the Common Good regarding vulnerability of people in high rises in the event of power failures and the need for viable reception centres to assist vulnerable people within a 2 kilometre walking radius.

We understand that the current NTMCC renovation plan is likely the result of dedicated City staff's mandate to maintain the "state of good repair" of this building. However in this case, "replacing like with like" simply does not make sense if one takes into account the bigger picture. As elected representatives you have a wider mandate to anticipate and prepare for the future on behalf of the Toronto residents - current and future. We ask you to consider taking action to put the repair work on hold to allow careful consideration of how the NTMCC could be expanded and upgraded to address priorities of equity, greenhouse gas reduction, operational energy cost savings and community resilience.

Sincerely,  
Arlena Hebert,  
President

Email copies:

City of Toronto: Janie Romoff, Daryl Starkman, Josie Scioli, Lorretta Chandler, Jim Baxter  
Karen Stintz and Gillian Jagasia, Members, North Toronto Memorial Arena Board  
Councillor Michelle Holland, Chair, Parks and Environment Committee  
Councillor James Pasternak, Chair, Community Development and Recreation Committee  
FoNTRA and other area resident groups