

Subject:

Official Community Response for the Finch LRT Land Transfer

From: troy budhu

Date: September 8, 2020 at 8:01:24 AM EDT

To: Phil Verster

Cc: Beatrice Herwats , Kelly Hagan , "judy.sgro@parl.gc.ca" , "trakocevic-co@ndp.on.ca" , "mayor_tory@toronto.ca" , "anthony.perruzza@toronto.ca" , Lena Azzou , Franca Di Giovanni , Symone Walters , Sam Teclé , Clara Stewart-Robertson

Subject: Official Community Response for the Finch LRT Land Transfer

Dear Mr. Verster,

We are pleased, although cautiously optimistic, given the history, with the 100% commitment from yourself and Metrolinx to getting the hub built. It is important that we work collaboratively on this process to avoid further miscommunication and to ensure the greatest benefit to the Jane-Finch Community.

Following up on Debra Eklove's August 28th email to you, I would like to confirm that the **Jane-Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts Organizing Committee** has been established and will be the new community voice for the project moving forward. As mentioned, Clara Stewart-Robertson and I will be acting as the main contacts for any communications with the Organizing Committee about the community hub and the land transfer.

Please find the attached letter from our Political Advocacy Working Group, restating the request that the entire frontage land along Finch Avenue West between Norfinch Drive and York Gate Boulevard be dedicated to the Jane-Finch community to develop and steward and other requests. We are hoping that this matter and the attached letter be discussed at the Metrolinx Board of Directors Meeting this, Thursday, September 10th, 2020.

We are also requesting the following as next steps:

- An official response to this letter, providing the details and outcomes of the
- discussion at the Board meeting
- Suggested dates and times to arrange a meeting with you to further discuss our
- requests in more detail

I have cc'd Symone Walters, who is the Lead for the Political Advocacy Working Group.

Thank you,

Troy Budhu

On behalf of the Jane-Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts Organizing Committee

Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts

Sent by email to: Phil.Verster@Metrolinx.com

September 8, 2020

Mr. Phil Verster
President and CEO
Metrolinx
97 Front Street West
Toronto, ON M5J 1E6

Attn: Beatrice Herwats, Metrolinx VP, Sponsor
Kelly Hagan, Metrolinx VP, Community Relations
Lena Azzou, Chief of Staff, Office of the President and CEO

Re: **Transit Oriented Communities Disposition of Finch Avenue (York Gate to Norfinch) Frontage Lands created by 32 meter setback of Finch West LRT Maintenance and Storage Facility**

Dear Mr. Verster,

In response to your public letter from August 4th, 2020 addressed to the Jane Finch Community, and to the information you provided in your presentation to the online forum convened by the Toronto Community Benefits Network, please be advised of the following:

1. The Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts (JFCHCA) Organizing Committee has now been established to replace the Community Action Planning Group (CAPG) as the new leadership group for the project, as shared in the attached letter sent to you on August 28th, 2020.
2. In responding to your open letter of August 6th, 2020 to the Jane-Finch Community (see attached), we are very pleased that Metrolinx is 100% committed to ensuring that the JFCHCA is built on the land along Finch Avenue West and that this land is being contributed for this purpose at no cost. To clarify, the development of the full 32-metre setback of land along Finch, along with the operations and sustainability of the JFCHCA, will be decided by the Jane-Finch community through a collaborative process.
3. In moving forward, we respectfully request that:
 - a. The frontage land along Finch between Norfinch Drive and York Gate Boulevard be dedicated in its entirety as the site of the JFCHCA as a community benefit of the Finch West LRT project.
 - b. Immediate arrangements to be made to transfer the frontage land in its entirety to the City of Toronto at no cost.

Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts

- c. Metrolinx give its full support to the Jane-Finch Community's request to the upcoming meeting of Toronto City Council to establish a community-directed task force that is mandated to plan and develop the JFCHCA and to establish a community-based governance model.
4. Further, we welcome Metrolinx's assistance in recruiting other prospective contributors to help raise the resources needed for the construction and operations of the JFCHCA. We understand that the lands will not be available for development until Mosaic Transit Group has completed their Finch West LRT construction activities.

On Behalf of the Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts,



Symone Walters and Sam Teclé for JFCHCA Advocacy Working Group



Troy Budhu and Clara Stewart-Robertson for the JFCHCA Organizing Committee

cc. Beatrice Herwats, Metrolinx VP, Head Sponsor-Rapid Transit, Beatrice.Herwats@metrolinx.com
cc. Kelly Hagan, Metrolinx VP, Community Relations & Capital Coms, Kelly.Hagan@metrolinx.com
cc. MP Judy Sgro, judy.sgro@parl.gc.ca
cc. MPP Tom Rakocevic, trakocevic-co@ndp.on.ca
cc. John Tory, mayor_tory@toronto.ca
cc. Councillor Anthony Perruzza, anthony.perruzza@toronto.ca
cc. Lena Azzou, Chief of Staff, Metrolinx President and CEO's Office Lena.Azzou@Metrolinx.com
cc. Franca DiGiovanni, Director, Com Relatns Tor Region Cap Projects franca.digiovanni@metrolinx.com

Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts

Attachment 1:

Letter from Metrolinx President and CEO Phil Verster to Jane and Finch Neighbourhood (Copy)

METROLINX

Office of the President & Chief Executive Officer Phil Verster
Phil.Verster@metrolinx.com (416) 202-5908

August 6, 2020

Dear Jane and Finch Community,

Re: Community Hub on the new Finch-West LRT Site

I would like to thank everyone for their comments and feedback on the parcel of land on the street frontage at the Finch West Maintenance and Storage Facility site.

Metrolinx remains 100% committed to ensuring that the community hub can be built on this land, and at no cost for the land.

This is a commitment of Metrolinx and myself, in writing, to the Jane & Finch community.

We will continue to collaborate with the Community Action Planning Group (CAPG), the City of Toronto, and others in the community to help make the hub a reality. We will also work with the City of Toronto to facilitate the land transfer.

Metrolinx connects communities, in more ways than one, and we are excited to bring the Finch West LRT to the Jane & Finch neighbourhood and to support the community hub.

Sincerely,

Original signed

Phil Verster
President and CEO

Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts

Attachment 2: Letter from CAPG-YW to Phil Verster, Metrolinx, dated August 28, 2020 (Copy)

August 28, 2020

To: Phil Verster, Metrolinx, President and CEO, Phil.Verster@metrolinx.com

cc. Kelly Hagan, Metrolinx, kelly.hagan@metrolinx.com

cc. MP Judy Sgro, judy.sgro@parl.gc.ca

cc. MPP Tom Rakocevic, trakocevic-co@ndp.on.ca

cc. John Tory, mayor_tory@toronto.ca

cc. Councillor Anthony Perruzza, anthony.perruzza@toronto.ca

cc. Matias de Dovitiis, matias.dedovitiis@toronto.ca

cc. Troy Bhudu, troybhudu@gmail.com

cc. Clara Stewart-Robertson, clarasr@janefinchcentre.org

cc. Sahle Robinson, sahlerobinson@gmail.com

Subject: HUB Organizing Committee and Obtaining the land for Jane Finch Community Hub and Center for the Arts (CHCA)

Dear Mr. Verster,

CAPG is now working with the HUB Organizing Committee of the Jane Finch Community for all actions and activities relating to the development of the Community Facility on the north side of Finch between Norfinch Drive and York Gate Blvd.

The HUB Organizing Committee is composed of residents, supporters, community agencies and local grass root groups* and is currently coordinated by Troy Budhu and Clara Stewart-Robertson.

Please ensure Troy and Clara receive all communications regarding the Jane Finch Community HUB and Centre for the Arts:

Troy's email is troylbudhu@gmail.com telephone: 647-745-7430

Clara's is clarasr@janefinchcentre.org telephone: 416-986-2686

Jane Finch Community Hub and Centre for the Arts

Attachment 2 : CAPG-YW to Metrolinx P Verster (continued)

We look forward to Metrolinx providing the necessary documents that ensure the land designated for the HUB fronting on the north side of Finch Avenue West between York Gate Blvd and Norfinch Drive be available to the community in 2023 to build this important facility for the Jane Finch community, and all of Toronto, as per the understandings and agreements for a community operated and owned facility.

Respectfully,

(original signed)

Debra Eklove and Sahle Robinson
Co-chairs, Community Action Planning Group (CAPG)

*Some of the community groups participating in the HUB Organizing committee are:

Belka Enrichment Center
Black Creek Community Collaborative
Black Creek Community Farm
Black Creek Community Health Centre
Black Creek Food Justice Network
Black Graduate Students Collective at York University
Community Action Planning Group
Community Engaged Learning (CEL), New College, University of Toronto
Firgrove Learning & Innovation Community Centre
Jane Finch Action Against Poverty (JFAAP)
Jane Finch Community Ministry
Jane Finch Community Research Partnership
Jane-Finch Concerned Citizens Organization
Jane Finch Economic Opportunities Action Group
Jane Finch Education Action Group
Jane Finch Housing Coalition
Jane/Finch Centre
Success Beyond Limits York TD Community Engagement Centre