



SENT VIA EMAIL: CEO@metrolinx.com

November 25, 2022

Phil Verster

President and Chief Executive Officer

Metrolinx Inc.

97 Front Street West

Toronto, ON M5J 1E6

Dear Mr. Phil Verster:

RE: ONTARIO LINE CONSTRUCTION – OSGOODE HALL

We are a group of legal associations whose members practice law in all disciplines throughout the province of Ontario.

We recognize the importance of accessible public transit in our community. Therefore, we commend all efforts to improve public transportation. However, planning for public transit should incorporate other community interests, such as preserving history and maintaining open natural spaces.

Osgoode Hall and the property surrounding it is a national heritage site. Osgoode Hall's building and graceful lands offer a tranquil spot in an otherwise busy urban space. Built in 1832, the building, wrought iron fence and grounds speak to history. John Howard, who designed High Park and St. James cemetery, was the first to design Osgoode Hall's lawns after the Law Society hired him to assess the damage caused when troops were stationed at Osgoode Hall during the Rebellion of 1837. Since then, the lawns and the gardens have been meticulously maintained.

The community's continued use of the space underscores its value. In the summertime, families take their wedding photographs, and many enjoy lunch on the lawns, ensuring that the building and its property are woven into the personal history of many Ontarians.

The Women's Law Association of Ontario (WLAO) is one of the signatories to this letter. In October 2022, the Law Society of Ontario placed a plaque on the grounds of Osgoode Hall

commemorating the WLAO's 100th anniversary as an organization. This special event is a reminder of the vital need to preserve our legal history for future generations.

We strongly urge Metrolinx to change its current plan to locate the new Osgoode Station on the Osgoode Hall grounds. Instead, the station should be located on one of the other viable options already presented such as the use of the property located on the northwest corner of Queen Street and University Avenue. It is our understanding that the property's owner has expressed interest in having the subway station located on those lands. Furthermore, we understand that there are no technical impediments to placing the subway station at that location. Alternative locations, such as the one on the northwest corner of Queen Street and University Avenue would enable the necessary expansion of public transit while preserving the historic Osgoode Hall grounds.

We have reviewed the Federation of Ontario Law Association's ("FOLA") letter dated June 1, 2022, and the Toronto Lawyers Association's ("TLA") letter dated June 13, 2022, written to you on this issue, and we agree with the comments referenced therein.

We would be pleased to discuss these matters further with you and look forward to further discussions on this issue.

Yours truly,



Jocelyn Tatebe

President, Women's Law Association of Ontario

On behalf of and approved by the following:

Jeremy Glick

President, Association of Law Officers of the Crown

Mario Torres

President, Canadian Hispanic Bar Association

Daniel Brown

President, Criminal Lawyers Association

Lisa Johnson

Chair, Family Lawyers Association

Justin P'ng

Acting President, Federation of Asian Canadian Lawyers Ontario

Rachel Sachs

President, Filipino Canadian Lawyers Network

Douglas Judson

Chair, Federation of Ontario Law Associations

Maria Damiano

President, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association

Devin Persaud

President, Southeast Asian Bar Association

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President, Toronto Lawyer's Association

CC Via Email:

The Honourable J. Michal Fairburn, Associate Chief Justice of Ontario

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The Honourable Geoffrey B. Morawetz, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice

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The Honourable Doug Downey, MPP, Attorney General of Ontario (doug.downey@pc.ola.org)

His Worship John Tory, Mayor, City of Toronto (mayor_tory@toronto.ca)

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Jacqueline Horvat, Treasurer, Law Society of Ontario (treasurer@lso.ca)

The Honourable Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

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The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage (pablo.rodriguez@parl.gc.ca)

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The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation (minister.mto@ontario.ca)

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