



June 16, 2006

The Honourable Laurel C. Broten
Minister of the Environment
12th Floor, 135 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5

Honourable Minister:

RE: Proposed Skateboard Facility in Colonel Samuel Smith Park, Toronto

Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront (CCFEW) was formed in 1989 when it spearheaded the fight to secure public access to the section of waterfront threatened by the redevelopment of the former Etobicoke motel strip. Its efforts contributed to the reduction of development density and the creation of the Humber Bay Shores Park. For seventeen years we have worked constructively with the municipality and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to ensure responsible development, and to promote a healthy, green, accessible waterfront environment through preservation and rehabilitation.

Recently the City of Toronto has decided to build a \$2.5 million skateboard facility and ice skating track in Colonel Sam Smith Park on the Etobicoke waterfront. The creation of this park was approved under the Environmental Assessment Act in 1980. In 1993 modifications to the original plan were required to take the act into consideration. The site of the skateboard/skating facility is in an area of the park proposed for regeneration in the Master Plan of the park, and is adjacent to a natural heritage area. It borders a treed corridor that is used by migratory birds and contains a remnant creek which flows into nearby wetlands.

We are writing to ask that as Environment Minister you pass a project-specific regulation designating this project as an undertaking to which the Environmental Assessment Act applies. The project and our concerns are outlined in detail in the attached submission.

The reasons for our request to you are:

1. The environmental impact of the City's proposal has not been evaluated within the context of current natural heritage policies
2. There has been no adequate evaluation of alternatives to the current proposal

3. There has been a lack of transparency and consultation in the decision making process
4. The Province has a historic and ongoing connection and involvement in The Lakeshore Grounds

Citizens Concerned About the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront contends that the City has not provided a compelling justification for the need to build this facility in an environmentally significant area. Other more suitable sites have been dismissed by the proponent for unpersuasive reasons. The decision making has not been open and consultative and there is no opportunity through the approval and planning process to adequately address the fundamental concerns that CCFEW has about this project.

A designation under the Environmental Assessment Act is the only way in which significant unresolved concerns regarding rationale, environmental impacts and land use compatibility can be addressed.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and would be happy to provide further information at any time.

Sincerely,

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