



Ontario Association of Architects

March 28, 2019

The Honourable Michael Tibollo, MPP
Minister of Tourism, Sport and Culture
c/o Ministry of Infrastructure
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2E1

Dear Minister,

As you are aware, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is the self-regulating body for the profession of architecture in Ontario, dedicated to promoting and increasing the knowledge, skills and proficiency of its members. The OAA also governs the practice of architecture and administers the *Architects Act* in Ontario so that the public interest may be served and protected. It is with both of these objectives in mind that I write you today.

As a site of architectural distinction, cultural significance and historical importance for the province, it is essential to protect Ontario Place and its legacy. Although the OAA is not opposed to the revitalization of Ontario Place, and in fact would welcome a reanimation of the property as a provincially owned urban park, the original intent of a public space for all to enjoy must be the driving force behind any revitalization.

The original Ontario Place pavilions, designed by architect Eb Zeidler, are pieces of architectural heritage and cultural significance that were representative of the future when opened in the 1970s. Ontario Place can be a beacon of the future once again, embodying the goals of the Provincial Government as a forward-looking and dynamic jurisdiction while highlighting the environmental and sustainability benefits of refurbishing the existing buildings. In doing so, you will prolong the life of a much-needed public space and reduce the many negative impacts that a new development will have on the environment.

The Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) is experiencing rapid population growth and is expecting to welcome millions more people before 2040. This increase will require a coordinated effort by all levels of government to ensure there is adequate green space for all to pursue leisure, tourism, cultural and sporting activities. As a large green space that helps reduce the impacts of climate change in a rapidly growing city, and with the value of land increasing dramatically across the GGH, protecting Ontario Place is essential. Acquiring a site of similar size and prominence would be financially prohibitive for the Provincial Government.

The OAA looks forward to continued discussions with you on the future of Ontario Place. I would like to thank you for your time and consideration of this submission. Please do not hesitate to contact us moving forward, as we remain a ready and willing resource for you and your Ministry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Kurtin', written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Kurtin, Architect
OAA, FRAIC
President