



October 12, 2023

Premier Doug Ford
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Queen's Park
Legislative Building
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Minister Kinga Surma
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Ministry of Infrastructure
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor, Room
5E200
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Mayor Olivia Chow
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Office of the Mayor
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor
Toronto, ON M5H 2N

RE: Save the Ontario Science Centre

To: Premier Ford, Minister Surma and Mayor Chow

The Bay Cloverhill Community Association, which represents the residents of a small densely populated area in the downtown core, believes the Ontario Science Centre, an iconic building, should remain in its present location and not be moved to Ontario Place. Around the world iconic buildings are retained and honoured and visited by millions of people.

The planning for the Ontario Science Center was started in 1961 under Premier John Robards as a centennial project, originally called the Centennial Center of Science and Technology. The renowned architect Raymond Moriyama was hired to design the center at its current location. Consisting of three buildings in a Brutalist design connected by a series of bridges and escalators, and set in a 100 acre parkland. Construction commenced in 1966 with plans to open in 1967 in time for the centennial celebration. The center was finally opened to the public in September 1969.

The Center was a pioneer for its hands-on approach. Unlike a traditional museum, where exhibits are for viewing, the majority of the exhibits are interactive. Many others are live demonstrations. The exhibits are loved by children and adults alike and opens their eyes to the field of science. This is indeed important today in our fast changing world.

Over the years thousands of adults, children and grandchildren have visited the center. We must preserve this building as part of our heritage. The location is indeed spectacular and could not possibly be replicated at Ontario Place. The centre provides employment and education opportunities to the residents of Flemington and Thorncliffe Park. It is also a cultural district which includes the Aga Khan Museum. There is not the space to provide the many exhibits that are in the current building. The opening of the Eglinton Crosstown's Science Centre station will make the attraction even more accessible to the entire city. Locating the Science Centre to an already busy area would discourage visitors.

In conclusion, we stress that the Ontario Science Centre remain in its current location.

Sincerely,
Bay Cloverhill Community Association Executive

Christine Dingemans, President
Marilyn Tait-McClellan, Vice President
Cathy Carnevali, Secretary

Norman Waite, Treasurer
Kathryn Holden, Ex-Officio

cc: Councillor Dianne Saxe, Ward 11, City of Toronto Councillor_Saxe@toronto.ca
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A Strong Voice for A Strong Community