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Terms of Reference – Scarborough Bluffs West Project

Mr. Deneault:

The Cliffcrest Scarborough SW Residents Association (CSVSWRA) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Submission – Terms of Reference – Scarborough Bluffs West Project.

We are the residents that live parallel to Scarborough's spectacular Bluffs. There are two main local access points to the waterfront within the boundaries of the Residents Association catchment, Bluffers Park and the Doris McCarthy Trail or Gates Gully which are designated Natural Heritage Systems, ANSIs, and ESAs. We have over the last several years witnessed condos and infill homes moving forward at a furious pace and failed to see where the protections are for our Scarborough Bluffs.

It is important for the local residents and resident associations to be a part of the public and stakeholder engagement process. Only locals possess a real-life insight and understanding of the area, and can share invaluable information that outsiders might miss. Our experience has been that the city and other project teams tend to look at things in parts or in silos, they are here for the time it requires to complete whatever they are working on and then move on. Locals remain, many who you may be surprised to learn, have lived in the area for generations. Locals look at things through one lens, the lens of real long term stakeholders, they are the stewards living on this land at this time and tasked to ensure that what they pass on to future stewards is a legacy of good things.

We understand that the Scarborough Bluffs West Revitalization project is to be incorporated into, and is part of the already approved EA of the East Portion of the Bluffs known as the Scarborough Waterfront Project. This in itself is confusing to our community, and we question why this project was divided in two parts, with two different names. We question why the entire Bluffs were not studied at the same time, noting both projects are essentially one. Would this not have been a more logical approach and saved time, resources, and taxpayers dollars?

The Scarborough Bluffs East Revitalization Study was approved by the province in 2019, almost 10 years ago. In 2020 massive development that was not considered as part of the assessment began to appear. We have for more than 5 years attempted to engage with City Teams and the TRCA to share concerns related to cumulative impact of nearby proposed developments, one just 50 meters from the Doris McCarthy Trail, and their potential impacts on the Bluffs and the Doris McCarthy Trail but **our questions have remained unanswered**. When teams were asked why Environmental Assessment is not considered in accordance with The City of Toronto Official Plan, Chapter 3.4, and Provincial EA Regulations when developments are reviewed, **our questions remained unanswered**.

Today the Scarborough Bluffs West Revitalization Study is starting. By the time the West project is completed the East project will certainly need to be revisited, which will mean more money spent and more time needed to have full understanding of what full impacts will be. It seems there is cause as well as an opportunity to go back and bring the East and West projects review together. Can this be done and if not why not?

Our community has watched the erosion of the Bluffs over the years, which in our layman's opinion has been exacerbated by the massive infill and condo developments as well as the removal of hundreds of mature trees. Scientific studies support this opinion. We have tried in vain to involve the TRCA, but they have not helped at all, and refused our requests to engage.

We feel the SWP project should be reevaluated and a moratorium put on all development on and south of Kingston Road, until independent, expert studies are done to determine the impact on the Bluffs erosion, wildlife, tree canopy, and bird migration. The TRCA should be working to preserve this valued treasure and not exploit it.

Please consider these comments and the opportunity to complete the East and West Revitalization Study together as it should have been done in the first place.

Respectfully,

Marina Tadenc, Director, on behalf of the Board of

Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association

<https://cliffcrestscarboroughvillagesw.ca/about-us>