

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Hon. Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

His Worship John Tory
Mayor, City of Toronto



The Right to Swim at Ontario Place

As a supporter of Ontario Place for All, I am calling on the Ontario Government to permanently restore swimming at Ontario Place.

Four beaches were planned for Ontario Place when it opened almost fifty years ago. Now there are none. For residents and visitors, swimming at Ontario Place is one of the least expensive and most immediate way to experience Toronto's privileged location at the edge of one of Canada's Great Lakes.

Over the summer, many people swam at the West Island beach, even though it is no longer an authorized swimming area. Even as the cold weather sets in, dedicated swimmers are still swimming at Ontario Place, but have been turned back from the West Island beach because it has been closed off for a film shoot. It is frustrating that with so few safe places to swim, the beach at Ontario Place is off-limits.

The people of Toronto are voting with their feet and their swimming gear. We are telling you that you have to make access to the lake for swimming a priority in your plans for Ontario Place.

This is only one of the many priorities that are emerging for this invaluable resource. The long months of COVID-19 restrictions have highlighted the urgent need to preserve Ontario Place as a park and open public space. The World Monuments Fund has reinforced the public's demand that you conserve its iconic heritage landscape. We continue to call on your governments to consult with us to ensure that the future of Ontario truly meets the needs of Ontarians

The public must be involved in the discussion of the public's property.