

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



This year is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Ontario Place. As I think about that significant milestone, I am writing to tell you that now, more than ever, Ontario Place must be saved as both an open, publicly accessible park and a renowned example of mid-20th-century innovative design.

Ontario Place has always been popular. Before COVID closed most of our tourist attractions, Ontario Place had more visitors than the CN Tower. The way the pandemic has changed our day-to-day lives has dramatically increased the value of it and other parks across the province.

One of the lessons we have learned from COVID is the critical importance parks and open space play in stopping the spread of the virus. They are a needed outlet for people working from home, and one of the few places where we all can, at a safe distance, meet our friends. Their importance can be seen daily by the numbers of people gravitating to our parks, including Ontario Place. With the possibility of more pandemics in the future, now is not the time to reduce access to one of the biggest and most attractive urban parks Ontario has to offer.

Along with the value of Ontario Place as major open space, I am also concerned with the importance of conserving its unique architecture and landscape. Its iconic Cinesphere and Pods and its creative blending of water and landscape has been recognized locally, nationally and internationally. Ontarians have joined with the World Monuments Fund in calling for a collaboratively developed Conservation Management Plan to anchor any redevelopment strategy for Ontario Place.

With all this richness, the future of this lakeside jewel cannot be decided in secret. Now that the government is poised to make an announcement about Ontario Place, it is critical that there also be a commitment to public consultation about its future. I am calling on you to bring the private sector submissions into the open NOW and start a

conversation with Torontonians, Ontarians and the City of Toronto about the best options for Ontario Place.

Ontario Place is such an important iconic resource, we, the public, deserve nothing less.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely

[your-name] [your email]

Supporting the Ontario Place for All core principles:

- Ontario Place must be for ALL and kept publicly accessible.
- Before any changes, there must be a thoughtful, comprehensive public review, with a full and robust public consultation.
- Public interest, not commercial interest must drive the new vision.
- No casino.
- Future plans must:
 - acknowledge the waterfront's Indigenous heritage.
 - maintain Ontario Place as part of Toronto's waterfront park system.
 - be integrated with the revitalization of Exhibition Place.
 - celebrate Ontario.
 - preserve Ontario Place as a recognized cultural heritage landscape including the Cinesphere, the Pods and the newly added Trillium Park.