



Canary District Neighbourhood Association

February 12, 2026

Re: CDNA Support for The Prairie Project beside Corktown Common

To Whom it May Concern:

The Canary District Neighbourhood Association strongly supports the establishment and maintenance of a native pollinator-friendly, educational recreation trail in the flood protection prairie between Corktown Common and the Don River. We have proposed this in The Prairie Project, a vision first brought to us by resident/volunteer Amy Zubick, who we are proud to say is now spearheading the project as a CDNA endeavour.

With a revitalized prairie, the downtown east flood protection system will be strengthened and its originally intended protective native biome will be restored. Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy a much-extended, richer, and healthier trail system that will connect them directly with the Biidaasige Park and the Lassonde Art Trail to the south, the Don River trail to the north, and the developing Butterfly Corridor to the west between Corktown Common and Sackville Park.

Students in the area (from both the Inglenook School as well as the future TDSB School planned for Mills Street and Bayview Avenue) will have the opportunity to learn directly about healthy environments and inter-related ecosystems, as will adult residents and visitors to the area. Moreover, by including volunteer stewardship in the project community bonds will be strengthened through shared work.

Environmental Stewardship is a Core Value for us. Corktown Common has always presented a strong platform from which we strive to protect and continue to restore a healthy ecosystem throughout the whole neighbourhood. The Prairie Project aligns perfectly with this Core Value and would support and enhance other stewardship projects in the neighbourhood.

Leaving this land as it is would weaken the protective influence of any remaining native plants on the flood protection structure. Doing nothing gives these invasive plants a stronger and stronger hold over the area, blowing seeds continuously over Corktown Common and creating a great deal of extra work for staff there, as well as infesting the rest of the neighbourhood.

In summary, we are so strongly in support of this project that we have dedicated a task force to it, lending our reputation to the endeavour as well as pledging to provide the guidance, connections and any other assistance needed to see it to fruition.

Franca Leeson, Chair
Canary District Neighbourhood Association