



Kristyn Wong-Tam

MPP TORONTO CENTRE

August 27, 2024

Phil Verster, President and CEO of Metrolinx
Metrolinx Office
97 Front Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 1E6

RE: Excessive Construction Noise at the Don Yards Site

Dear Phil Verster,

I am writing this letter in support of Canary District and Corktown residents who have been severely and negatively impacted by excessive overnight construction noise at the Don Yards site.

As the local MPP and former City Councillor, I have witnessed firsthand the hard work of all parties involved in building new transit for a long-established neighbourhood in downtown Toronto. I understand the importance of this milestone and ongoing work.

Many residents have complained to our office about **excessive construction noise late at night**. Of particular concern is the fact that the noise begins at 6 a.m. with “auger-banging” and continues until well after midnight with loud concrete pouring. These instances of excessive construction noise have repeatedly woken exhausted and mentally stressed residents in nearby buildings, one of whom reported that all their neighbours are, “feeling panicked and anxious, as our ability to sleep has been taken away.”

We recognize that significant infrastructure construction can be disruptive and harm a community while in process. As we are all looking forward to the end of the construction and the opening of the Ontario Line, this date is still years away. In the meantime, the community deserves to be heard by Metrolinx above all the deafening overnight construction noise.

Metrolinx has committed to doing “less destructive work” overnight, but based on footage that our office has seen, this is not true. According to a constituent, on Monday August 26, there was auger-banging twice well after midnight (at 12:30 a.m.), followed by

“extremely noisy concrete pouring went until past 2 a.m.”. This is not "less disruptive work" its very heavy construction.

Even if the Province of Ontario can exempt Metrolinx from local construction rules, including the Noise Bylaws from the City of Toronto that stipulates [construction noise is not permitted when it is clearly audible from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the next day or until 9 a.m. on Saturdays, and all day Sunday and statutory holidays](#), I urge you to think and act responsibly with consideration to your surrounding neighbourhood.

Questions that I urge you to answer include:

- Will a publicly funded agency such as Metrolinx under your leadership be a good neighbour and responsibly consider the health and well-being of all who live and work close to the Don Yards?
- Have you taken every action possible to reduce the excessive noise emitting from your construction sites at all hours?
- Would you put yourself and your loved ones at the same health risk as that of your sleep-deprived neighbours?

Ensuring that there is a designated time when the noise must end daily will provide peace of mind for constituents who have now gone over a week without regular sleep. Our office has been in contact with another resident who tells us that he had to go see a physician due to “continued sleep deprivation, which can lead to serious health risks.” There are also infants, children and other vulnerable people who are unable to get the recommended hours of sleep per night.

By adhering to the City of Toronto Noise Bylaw, Metrolinx will move in the right direction for the neighbourhood. Do not minimize or dismiss the health concerns raised by residents. Please reply to my letter submitted on their behalf with the care and consideration your neighbours deserve.

Your prompt reply here will be deeply appreciated by all neighbours and community stakeholders. If you have additional questions, you can reach my office by email at kwong-tam-qp@ndp.on.ca or by phone at 416-972-7683.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristyn Wong-Tam

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