



Kristyn Wong-Tam

MPP TORONTO CENTRE

September 4, 2024

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

RE: Holding Metrolinx Accountable for Excessive Construction Noise at Don Yards

Dear Mr. Phil Verster,

Thank you for taking the time to reply and I acknowledge receipt of your communication from yesterday. While you have asserted that the work being done overnight in the Don Yard is critical to completing the Ontario Line, I have received additional concerns from residents, who have continued to go without sleep each night since mid-August.

Following my initial letter to you on August 27, 2024, excessive construction noise has continued to impact residents, who are now more sleep-deprived than ever. We need you and Metrolinx to be accountable, work harder, and invest more to reduce the excessive noise.

After speaking with the community, a resident reported, "I feel depleted and exhausted all the time, yet I avoid going to bed because I cannot fall asleep easily due to the noise, and despite using earplugs, I wake up multiple times during the night... We cannot open the windows ever due to noise and dust." This abbreviated sentiment captures the overall sense of desperation that has fallen upon our neighbourhood.

I have been sent video recordings of [drilling occurring until almost 1:30 AM](#) and then starting up again before [7 AM](#). I cannot stress enough that your excessive construction noise has led to hundreds of residents with rapid mental and physical health deterioration due to inadequate sleep.

Your letter states that Metrolinx "will continue to listen to concerns and explore other options to reduce noise and vibration across our work sites." I welcome these words and trust you will do everything possible as the President and CEO to ensure Metrolinx truly meets the claim of such a statement.

As you know, many residents are worried about their ability to parent their children, carry out their jobs as expected, or maintain individual and family health. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, Metrolinx's mission is to enhance the prosperity and quality of life for Ontarians. It must be incorporated into everything you do and at every stage of your work, including construction.

In consultation with community members and on behalf of my constituents, I urge you to consider the following as soon as possible:

1. Meet with residents to hear their concerns directly.
2. Provide and install noise-cancelling curtains and/or carpets for residents who request them.
3. Provide alternative accommodation to residents who request it until the excessive noise stops overnight.
4. Retain an independent, third-party acoustic expert to review your existing noise and vibration mitigation strategy to confirm that levels are "within acceptable limits."

Ontarians, including those who live in the Canary District and Corktown, deserve accountability from Metrolinx and relief from all the deafening overnight construction noise.

The basic noise mitigation measures I request are necessary to support residents during this immense hardship. Please take a moment to [read the impact statements](#) gathered by the Canary District Neighbourhood Association. Your cooperation with my office will significantly impact the well-being of all those living near the Don Yard construction site.

Please reply to my letter with the care and consideration your neighbours deserve. You can always reach my office at kwong-tam-qp@ndp.on.ca or by phone at 416-972-7683. I welcome your call anytime.

Respectfully submitted,



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