

July 8, 2011

Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Transportation
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
77 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Wynne:

Re: Sherway Trail Project

I am writing on behalf of the Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition (Coalition) about the Sherway Trail project in Etobicoke. The Coalition is a watershed stakeholder group that works with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to achieve the vision of revitalized creeks and watersheds. Our work is guided by a watershed strategy "*Greening Our Watersheds: Revitalization Strategies for Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks 2002*" and "*Turning over a new leaf: The Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks Watersheds Report Card 2006*". Our vision and objectives for Greater Toronto Area's most urbanized watersheds is to improve the health of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek watersheds and to provide public access to these valuable public assets.

For a number of years now, the Coalition along with the City of Toronto, the City of Mississauga and the TRCA have been working on a habitat restoration and trail project near to Sherway Gardens and south of the Trillium Health Centre Toronto West in Etobicoke. Funding has been secured from the development at Sherway Gardens under Section 37 of the Planning Act to implement the project. Funding will also be provided by the City of Toronto and the TRCA.

We have recently become aware that a permit to allow the work to proceed has been placed on hold because a decision has been made to dispose of the MTO lands adjacent to the proposed restoration and trail project, and the land has been turned over to the Ontario Realty Corporation for consideration of sale.

We understand that development cannot occur within the valley (below top of bank) and are asking at this time that an easement be provided which in no way limits or interferes with the sale of the land but allows for a permit to be issued so that the restoration and trail work can begin.

We urgently require your assistance to obtain the easement. As you know, the costs of implementation will increase as time goes by and we do not want to miss this opportunity to improve the health of the watershed and allow for public access to much needed green space.

Your kind assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Barrett
Chair, Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition