

Correspondence with Kathleen Wynne, MPP Don Valley West, regarding 75 The Donway West. The string of e-mails appears here in descending chronological order. Please scroll down to the bottom of the PDF file to read the correspondence in the proper order.

Response from Don Mills Friends, sent to Kathleen Wynne on **January 6, 2009**

Dear Kathleen,

Thank you for your response of December 15, 2008, regarding concerns about 75 The Donway West. I appreciate your taking the time to respond.

You say that the ongoing issue regarding 75 TDW is ultimately between private partners, and that there is no provincial jurisdiction in the matter. What is so very frustrating about this is that we have had this same response from politicians all along—claiming powerlessness—and one can't help but wonder why we have politicians at all, when they can't do anything to help a community that is being treated so unfairly by a developer. We might as well stop wasting time and public money and vote for developers in future elections, since it is they who make the decisions in our communities.

What is further difficult to believe is that an issue like the continued availability of medical services in a community with a substantial percentage of seniors is considered to be an issue "between private partners," with no regard for the devastating impact the discontinuation of these services has on the community. For nearly three years now, we have seen Cadillac Fairview ignore the community's needs and the planning documents that had been put in place to protect the community. One would need to be blinder than blind not to see that the Central Don Mills Secondary Plan is being ignored and mocked left, right, and centre by the developer. Yet our governments, both provincial and municipal, can do nothing to protect the community? It is truly difficult to believe.

You say you are willing to work with any provincial agency that is not judicial in nature. What agencies are there that would fit this description that we could approach for help, if the government cannot help? We don't know these agencies, so how can we find them? Why is the community expected to do all the sleuthing and work in defending itself when our taxes pay those elected officials who supposedly represent us and work on our behalf? Why is it up to the community to organize meetings and communications, when this should be done by those who have both the contacts and the resources to do so—our elected representatives?

Earlier today, I spent an hour in the lobby at 75 TDW with a woman from the Markhamgate working group for the plaza redevelopment proposal at Don Mills and Steeles, who had come from an appointment for an ultrasound in the building. Her doctor had sent her there (all the way from Markham) because he has confidence in the team at 75 TDW and feels their results are more reliable than elsewhere. While we sat in the lobby talking about development woes in our respective communities, there was a constant flow of patients, most of them elderly and many disabled (using walkers, canes, wheelchairs, scooters), coming and going through the doors of the building and the elevators and the pharmacy that's right at the entrance. When one observes these people coming and going as well as they can with their various restrictions and disabilities, it is impossible not to be concerned about how they will cope and what they will do when their doctors and therapists and lab and X-ray services are no longer under one roof and available in the heart of their community. These are the people who helped build this community, and now we stand by and watch as the rug is being pulled out right from under their feet.

The medical building at 75 TDW, except for the Post Office (which is also rumoured to have been sold to CF effective 2010), is the last remaining central services facility that the seniors of Don Mills have left on the Don Mills Centre. Please, Kathleen, as this community's MPP, what will you do—other than being available to speak or communicate with residents who call and/or write to you—to ensure that these citizens don't lose this facility along with everything else they have already lost of the centre of their community?

Thank you.

Simone Gabbay
Founder
Don Mills Friends
416-446-0862
www.donmillsfriends.org
donmillsfriends@pathcom.com

Response from Kathleen Wynne

----- Original Message -----

From: [Wynne, Kathleen-MPP](#)

To: [Don Mills Friends](#)

Sent: Monday, December 15, 2008 11:20 AM

Subject: RE: 75 The Donway West

Dear Simone,

Thank you for your email. I want you to know that I hear your concerns.

The ongoing issue regarding 75 the Donway West is ultimately between private partners. There simply is no provincial jurisdiction in the matter. It is incumbent on all of us to ensure that Cadillac Fairview hears and understands the concerns of local Don Mills residents and I am committed to continuing that conversation with Peter Sharp. With regard to the OMB, I am quite rightly prohibited from attempting to influence a quasi-judicial body of the Province of Ontario that is deliberating a matter before it. This regulation applies to all judicial and quasi judicial bodies.

I have spoken about this subject to many residents, businesses and Media in Don Mills. I believe that my views are clear. I have and will continue to work with all involved parties to facilitate communication. I am willing to work with any provincial agency that is not judicial in nature to facilitate communication, should it be needed. As always, I would be happy to attend a meeting on any subject of concern to the constituents of Don Valley West either in my constituency office or at another location.

Thanks again Simone for contacting me.

Kathleen Wynne, MPP
Don Valley West

Follow-up e-mail from Don Mills Friends

From: Don Mills Friends [mailto:donmillsfriends@pathcom.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2008 11:51 AM
To: Wynne_Kathleen-MPP-CO
Subject: 75 The Donway West

Dear Kathleen,

Mr. Ken Ogle kindly shared with us his recent e-mail to you regarding 75 The Donway West, and your response to him.

In follow-up to your response, we have the following questions:

1. You say that you are not in a position to stop the proposed conversion of 75 The Donway West (75 TDW), or to require that the services continue to be available in one place or in a specific neighbourhood. You also say that **the provincial government does not have any role or authority** relating to the location of the offices in question.

Who, then, does have a role or authority relating to the conversion of the offices in question, and would you approach these people on behalf of the community and request their assistance and intervention? Specifically, too, would you approach the Ontario Municipal Board, to whom Cadillac Fairview has made application with

respect to the conversion of 75 TDW, and would you advocate on behalf of the community, explaining to the OMB that the building, which serves thousands of patients, is a critical element in the health care services available to Don Mills residents, many of whom are seniors and disabled citizens, and requesting that the OMB rule against the conversion?

2. You say that your first priority is to work with residents, Councillor Jenkins, Cadillac Fairview and **provincial officials** to get a year-round community centre built as part of the development, and you further say that your priority in this matter (75 TDW) will be to promote open communication between the community, the local councillor, the medical offices, and Cadillac Fairview.

Could you explain and elaborate on how you will do this? Who are the provincial officials with whom you will work, and why would they have a role or be able to influence and support the construction of a community centre when they cannot become involved in efforts to preserve an essential service facility that already exists? Will you organize public meetings *with the entire community*, not just a small, select group, and at such meetings, will you ask the residents and tenants at 75 TDW whether they, in fact, would give priority to an as-yet-to-be-built community centre over the retention of the medical services that are currently accessible under one roof?

3. As an advocate for the community, would you make a public statement, to all parties involved, as well as to the media and any other group or groups that may have potential influence, to the effect that you share the community's concern over the imminent exodus of the medical services at 75 TDW, and would you make a public appeal to Cadillac Fairview to reconsider their plans, offering to work with them and the community (as a whole) to identify workable alternatives?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Simone Gabbay
Founder
Don Mills Friends
416-446-0862
www.donmillsfriends.org
donmillsfriends@pathcom.com

Response from Kathleen Wynne, MPP Don Valley West

December 10, 2008

Dear Mr. Ogle,

Thank you for writing to share with me your concerns about the proposed conversion of the office building at 75 The Donway West. In particular, thank you for making me aware of your concern that the numerous medical services currently available under one roof may no longer all be available in the same convenient place or that some of the services may move out of the community.

As you know, I have already taken an active interest in the development plans. My first priority is to work with residents, Councillor Jenkins, Cadillac Fairview, and provincial officials to get a year-round community centre built as part of the development.

I want you to know that I understand your concern for the convenient local availability of medical services. It is important that you know that, while OHIP pays for most of the services offered by the doctors and other medical professionals offered at 75 The Donway West, the provincial government does not have any role or authority relating to the location of the offices in question. While I am sympathetic to your concerns, I am not in a position to stop the proposed conversion or to require that the services continue to be available in one place or in a specific neighbourhood.

Having said that, I recognize the community interest in the issue and will work with the community to achieve the best result possible under the circumstances. My priority in this matter will be to promote open communication between the community, the local councillor, the medical offices, and Cadillac Fairview.

Thank you again for sharing your concern with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wynne, MPP

Don Valley West

E-mail from a Don Mills resident to Kathleen Wynne, M.P.P. Don Valley West

December 10, 2008

Dear Kathleen:

[In follow-up to earlier correspondence...] regarding the perilous fate of the medical building at 75 The Donway West. As I presume you are aware, Cadillac Fairview proposes to do an upgrade and conversion of this building, which presently houses a large number of medical offices which serve the surrounding community, which comprises a large number of seniors. The impending displacement of these facilities means that these seniors will have to attempt to find medical services elsewhere. [CF] plan to have some medical office space available, but at significantly increased rents. We understand that many practitioners have indicated that the increased rents

are so significant that they plan to vacate. This is a major concern as many seniors have mobility problems and will have difficulty arranging transportation to facilities in other areas of the community (they will probably first of all have to locate a new practitioner—no mean feat in this day and age!!!).

The Don Mills community had made their concerns known on many occasions to Cadillac Fairview, but they are obviously more concerned with the almighty dollar than the welfare of the residents. It seems that to them it is and has been a closed matter, and is not discussable.

[...] this is a matter that is of great concern to literally hundreds of your constituents.

Yours truly,

Ken Ogle