

August 27, 2008

The Hon. David Caplan:

Dear Mr. Caplan:

**Re: 75 The Donway West – Medical Centre Don Mills**

In 2007, City Planning put together a ‘Working Group’ of concerned Don Mills residents due to Cadillac Fairview’s failure to keep the community advised of their plans for the Don Mills Centre. I was accepted as an advocate for what we call our “Medical Centre” at 75 The Donway West, which occupies 25% of the building.

Cadillac’s plans to reconstruct this building into condominiums for seniors will result in the scattering of our important health practitioners. Not only will our doctors have to vacate but in all likelihood many will have to move out of the area. Of course, the tenants are not going to wait until 2011 when Cadillac plan to start the process. This is borne out by the survey that Councillor Jenkins has conducted of the health providers.

I am attaching a list of the health services presently occupying 75 The Donway West, serving well over 22,000 patients. Also, some statistics of the approximate number of patients served by the Physicians, Xray offices, Ultra Sound Services and Diagnostic Clinic that I have been able to compile.

Having all these services available under one roof has enabled patients to visit their doctors and continue to use the available health support services, such as necessary medical tests. Not only in the same building but on the same day. A major consideration.

As you are aware, we have a large population of seniors in Don Mills which is about to increase. This makes this facility doubly valuable because of the close proximity and concentration of services all in one location. Many seniors also no longer drive.

Cadillac has offered tenants various offices in their new space over the retail stores and in the Royal Bank building but, as they admit, the rents will be much higher. This is obviously not the solution as it is important to continue to keep the services concentrated in one building.

During our Working Group meetings, I suggested to City Planning that a Medical Centre be included within the proposed Community Centre, as well as the space that the Don Mills Foundation will require in the future. As the Civitan Arena, unfortunately, has to relocate, and the City owns their land, we stand in an excellent position to negotiate for this land as a preferred site. A site favoured by many is on the corner of Donway West South and Don Mills Road, next to public transportation. This land could be added to what the City already owns.

It has now been brought to my attention that the Ministry of Health plan to increase their number of government funded Community Health Centres. With the expected loss of many of our present medical practitioners, what better situation than to assign such a Health Centre for Don Mills?.

Taking into consideration all the new condos presently being built in the area, and in close proximity to our North York General Hospital, the pressure on the hospital services will be even more unsustainable.

Our present medical facilities, have been an adjunct so to speak, to the hospital and to see these disbanded would be a crime of large proportion to thousands and result in many having no recourse but to use the emergency services of the hospital.

Will you, as our Minister of Health, and Legislative representative, investigate the possibility of our securing a government funded Community Health Centre for Don Mills?. You constituents deserve your interest and attention.

If we could be assured that this were possible we stand the chance of persuading Cadillac Fairview to extend the leases of the present medical tenants until such a facility became a reality.

I understand you have many obligations but I urge you to give this urgent matter priority and respond outlining how you will deal with this looming crisis in central Don Mills

A tall order I realize, but a very important health consideration not just to this community but to a health system that needs foresight such as you are able to provide.

I may be reached through my daughter's email as above.

Yours very sincerely,

Jeanetta A. Vickers

Cc Councillor C. Jenkins  
Councillor J. Parker  
Councillor D. Minnan-Wong  
Mayor D. Miller  
Kathleen Wynne, MPP  
Premier D. McGuinty  
Steve Forrester, City Planning