



BOLD Community Coalition Holds Public Demonstration to Honour Osgoode Hall Trees

Demonstration

Where: Osgoode Hall

When: Friday, February 3, 2023, 5:30p.m.

New Coalition of Community Groups Demands More From Metrolinx

Toronto, ON (February 2, 2023) - We are a coalition of community groups, professional organizations, political leaders, and business groups all impacted by the Ontario Line. We are dismayed by the actions of the Community Engagement Team dealing with the Osgoode station planned for Osgoode Hall

Despite our best efforts to have Metrolinx postpone yesterday's meeting regarding the future Ontario Line's Osgoode station, we were disappointed that it proceeded as planned. Concerned residents and community groups were provided insufficient advance notice and no documentation prior to the meeting and made reasonable requests to have it postponed.

To make matters worse, Metrolinx is now moving ahead with their plan to clearcut the southwest part of Osgoode Hall's grounds – 20% of this historic garden at the corner of University and Queen. Metrolinx began to prepare the site on Thursday, February 2, with new fencing and deployment of security personnel. As early as Friday, February 3 and continuing into the weekend, 200-year-old trees will be cut down to make way for the future Ontario Line. Communities' interests have taken a backseat to Metrolinx's agenda, and we are angry and frustrated. Prior to the tragic removal of these trees, a public demonstration will be held on the grounds of Osgoode Hall at 5:30p.m. on Friday, February 3.

Metrolinx's reluctance to meaningfully engage with communities is not unique to the Ontario Line project. This has become a serious point of concern for many residents impacted by transit projects across the city. To bring better accountability and collaboration to Metrolinx, we are proud to announce the formation of the Build the Ontario Line Differently (BOLD) Community Coalition.

To be clear: our coalition recognizes that Ontario's booming population requires a world-class 21st-century transit system. We are fully supportive of new transit infrastructure projects. However, we believe it is critical to build these projects in a way that is inclusive, acknowledges specific concerns, and minimizes short-term disruption for the very communities this project is intended to serve.

News Release authorized by the BOLD Community Coalition Steering Committee

BOLD
COALITION
BUILD ONTARIO LINE
DIFFERENTLY

As we speak, the Coalition is engaging with elected officials to create a path forward that ensures transit gets built in Toronto and impacts to communities are minimized as much as possible. Together, we will ensure our voices remain heard and no community is left behind as the Ontario Line project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Liz Driver, Director
Campbell House Museum

Diane Devenyi
Moss Park Coalition

Shelley Kline, Chair
Lakeshore East Community Advisory
Committee (LSE CAC)

Save Jimmie Simpson

Lawrence Warriner, President
Don't Mess with the Don

Ralph Daley, President
Grange Community Association

Ric Amis, Chair
Parkdale Residents Association

Cynthia Wilkey
West Don Lands Committee

Don Young, Co-Chair Advocacy and Action
Committee
Federation of South Toronto Residents'
Associations (Toronto Wards 4, 9, 10, 13,
and Ward 11 south of Bloor)

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