

Received Apr 19/19

Minister of Infrastructure  
and Communities



Ministre de l'Infrastructure  
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

Mr. Michael Bryant  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Ms. Brenda McPhail, PhD  
Director of Privacy, Tech and Surveillance  
Canadian Civil Liberties Association  
90 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 900  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 2Y3

APR 15 2019

Dear Mr. Bryant and Doctor McPhail:

I am writing in response to your letter of March 5, 2019, to the Prime Minister, the Premier of Ontario and the Mayor of Toronto, regarding the Waterfront Toronto Quayside project.

Waterfront Toronto's vision is to develop sustainable communities, increase the supply of affordable housing, expand public transit and increase economic competitiveness through various projects and initiatives. The Government of Canada has collaborated with Ontario and Toronto to invest more than \$1 billion to advance this vision. As part of this commitment, in June 2017, the Government of Canada announced \$416 million in contribution funding toward the significant Port Lands Flood Protection initiative that will transform some 240 hectares of underused industrial land into a vibrant and resilient neighbourhood.

For the Quayside area, a Master Innovation and Development Plan for the 12-acre site is being drafted by Sidewalk Labs based on a publicly available Plan Development Agreement with Waterfront Toronto. Broad consultation by Sidewalk Labs and Waterfront Toronto is taking place with public and external experts to help inform the Quayside proposal. As this is just a proposal, the draft Plan will be subject to additional, extensive consultation and feedback after a complete draft has been submitted to Waterfront Toronto and then released to governments and the public.

To guide its own assessment of the draft Plan, Waterfront Toronto is developing a comprehensive evaluation framework that includes multiple phases of review, expert advice and engagement to seek feedback from governments and the public. The framework was previewed during a December 2018 public roundtable and is expected to be published shortly. Governments will also be consulted prior to Waterfront Toronto advancing a final Plan to its board. Any individual components that may be brought forward thereafter for implementation will be subject to city approvals and provincial and federal regulations and approvals, as appropriate.

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With respect to digital and data considerations, an independent group of experts has been convened by Waterfront Toronto, under a Digital Strategy Advisory Panel, to provide advice on key issues arising in development planning, including the use of innovative and smart technology and implications for data collection, sharing and privacy at Quayside. At the federal level, the National Consultation on Digital and Data Transformation, led by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, will help position the Government of Canada to better understand how Canada can drive innovation, prepare Canadians for the future of work and ensure they have trust and confidence in how their data is used, including in the context of proposals for the Quayside site. Additionally, it is my understanding that the Government of Ontario recently launched consultations to seek public input on the development of a digital strategy for the province, and the City of Toronto is expected to start its own public consultation process for a digital infrastructure and smart city framework.

I appreciate hearing your views about Waterfront Toronto and the development plan for Quayside. The Government of Canada looks forward to reviewing the full plan and considering the balance between innovation and promoting new community investments as well as privacy and responsible data use.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Champagne', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

c.c. The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P.  
Premier of Ontario

His Worship John Tory  
Mayor of Toronto