

April 5, 2018

Dear Councillor Troisi and Councillor Fletcher:

As you know, last week the City of Toronto issued a staff report to the Parks and Environment Committee (Item # PE26.6) regarding ownership of the East Gap dock wall. In part, the report concluded that ownership of the partially submerged pier extending north from the dock wall (identified as Part 1 in the report) resides with PortsToronto. Unfortunately, this staff report was done without consultation with PortsToronto and is incorrect. As such, PortsToronto is disputing the City's conclusion that PortsToronto owns the pier and is seeking a meeting with the City to discuss the ownership of this structure.

The pier in question was built in the 1890s by Public Works (federal government) but ownership of the pier has never been transferred to PortsToronto. There is historical record that indicates that transfer of the pier was attempted in the 1960s, but the transfer was not completed leaving the ownership in question and the pier to fall into disrepair. Further, while the water lot in which the pier sits is indeed owned by Ports Toronto, there is no reference in PortsToronto's Letters Patent – a document issued by the federal government which includes a listing of all PortsToronto's property holdings – to the East Gap pier.

The apparent approach taken by the City of Toronto uses ownership of the water lot as its guide, and incorrectly equates ownership of the water lot with ownership of the pier asset located within the water lot. The pier is a separate and distinct construct, and is not part of PortsToronto's holdings or responsibilities.

However, regardless of which organization owns the pier, PortsToronto agrees that the concrete remains of the pier need to be removed from the harbour. Earlier this year PortsToronto began discussions with the City of Toronto regarding how best to address the pier. In the short term, and as part of its role to ensure safe navigation within the harbour, PortsToronto has scheduled the removal of the pier and associated rubble, with the work commencing in the coming weeks.

Confirming ownership of the pier will be a longer process and PortsToronto will cooperate fully with the City of Toronto and the federal government on the longer-term vision for the area and, if required, assist in confirming ownership. But most important, in the short term PortsToronto has committed to removing the rubble and will do so in the coming weeks to ensure safety and enjoyment for all who boat in the harbour and visit the Toronto Islands.

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We trust this addresses your immediate concerns regarding the pier and we would encourage you to reach out with any additional questions or clarifications. We look forward to consulting with City of Toronto staff on this issue.

Sincerely



Geoffrey Wilson
Chief Executive Officer
PortsToronto

cc: Mary-Margaret McMahon, Councillor Ward 32, Chair of the Parks and Environment Committee
Bryan Bowen, Waterfront Secretariat
Julie Lavertu, City of Toronto
Ed Hore, Waterfront For All, Chair
Cindy Wilkey, Waterfront For All, Vice-Chair
Kevin Currie, WBIA
Pam Mazza, Toronto Island Community Association