



July 5, 2024

Premier Doug Ford
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Email: premier@ontario.ca

Minister Kinga Surma
Ministry of Infrastructure
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Dear Premier Ford and Minister Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure

I am writing on behalf of CFUW Ontario Council, a provincial organization with 48 clubs across Ontario and 4,500 members. CFUW Ontario Council is a voluntary, self-funded, non-profit, non-partisan women's organization whose members seek to provide life-long learning, improve public policy and advocate for gender equality and the rights of women and girls.

The abrupt closure of the Ontario Science Centre, a scientific learning institution for over 50 years and a valuable educational resource for all ages, has left a significant void in our education system and is a painful loss for all.

The world class Ontario Science Centre gives students across Ontario and beyond the opportunity to partake in science and technology. It is a significant base for STEM education. It promotes equality in education and takes down barriers for creative thinking.

CFUW Ontario Council has adopted the UN Sustainable Development Goals, 2030, as a call to action to address 17 global issues to create a better future of higher education, poverty eradication, combating environmental issues and gender equality. The Ontario Science Centre, through their interactive education programs, has incorporated the SDGs into their resources for teachers to help guide students

into the future and encourage lifelong learning, critical thinking and problem solving, all needed to help all of us reach these goals.

Premier Ford, the Science Centre, through its creative and interactive exhibits, challenges and encourages students to collaborate and improve their educational outcomes. Our changing world requires critical thinking, and the Ontario Science Centre has opened the imaginations and creativity of generations of students. It needs to be and should be part of our future generations.

Furthermore, as Toronto and the surrounding areas, and Ontario itself, are rising in population, a building of a smaller footprint will not serve the needs of the growth in population. The present location has convenient and easy access being on the outskirts of downtown Toronto. Repairs to the existing site may take two years but this is still faster than the option to relocate by modifying or rebuilding on another site.

CFUW Ontario Council strongly urges the government to reverse its decision to close the Ontario Science Centre and make the required investments to the Science Centre at the existing location in Don Mills, restoring the existing buildings to the world class institution that it is.

Your Respectfully,

Sandra Shaw
President, CFUW Ontario Council

Wendy Taylor
Chair, Education, CFUW Ontario Council

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