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To: Members of the Administration Committee
City of Toronto

From: Toronto Society of Architects
Joe Lobko, Chair

Re: Agenda Item 1 – Administration Committee Meeting, November 5th
Union Station Redevelopment

The Toronto Society of Architects urges the City to support and implement a process of community involvement with respect to the restoration and development of the Union Station property, prior to entering into any contractual agreements with the Union Pearson Group, or any other operator/developer proponent.

This is a request with some urgency, in light of the City's ongoing negotiations with the chosen proponent, and the minimal public consultation to date.

As already identified by the city, the potential benefits for the city and the GTA include the support of transit operations, the heritage restoration of a landmark structure, and direct, short-term economic benefits, through leasing this public asset to a developer/operator. However, the wide range of potential urban design, architectural, infrastructure, heritage and economic opportunities that exist are barely addressed in such generalized statements of objectives. There is no assurance that the full public benefit potential of the site will be realized solely through a closed-door negotiation process with a proponent and review by a few stakeholder agencies.

We request that the present contractual negotiations to determine the redevelopment plans for the Station be delayed until public input can be obtained. On this basis, the TSA would be pleased to work with the City to facilitate the generation of ideas and to promote public awareness of the issues and opportunities

On behalf of the Toronto Society of Architects,

Joe Lobko
Chair, 2002