



OFFICE OF
**BRAD
BRADFORD**

Toronto City Councillor
Beaches—East York | Ward 19

TORONTO CITY HALL
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CONSTITUENCY OFFICE
2118 Danforth Ave East
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February 2023

RE: Endorsing the Establishment of a Somali Cultural and Recreation Centre Project

Public spaces in neighborhoods are a vital civic infrastructures in our city. These spaces provide a central physical location for organizing community services, preserving local history and advancing social contributions. They address recreational needs throughout all seasons, support artistic expressions, and serve as a social hub for Torontonians of all ages and abilities. When planned and designed right, these community spaces can also preserve urban green spaces, boost local initiatives, and contribute to the overall health and well-being of local communities.

With these principles of sustainable community-building being at the core of the Somali Cultural and Recreation Centre (“Centre”) initiative, I'm pleased to offer my endorsement and support for the Centre to be established in Toronto.

I commend Toronto City Council for passing a motion in July 2022 that commits to and supports the establishment of this Centre. This is an important community infrastructure project that will provide tangible benefit to the vibrant and diverse Somali community in Toronto, and to residents of the city at large. I am grateful that this Centre will serve as a hub of excellence that preserves and celebrates the immense cultural contributions of Toronto's Somali community and the enhancement of the cultural fabric of this city. I am also hopeful that the establishment of this Centre will provide a unique and innovative space for community-based organizations to create, build and grow.

Most importantly, I support this important initiative because it will create a high-quality, accessible public space that serves as the core of Somali community life in Toronto.

Respectfully,

Brad Bradford

Toronto City Councillor | Chair, Planning and Housing Committee
Beaches-East York | Ward 19

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