



# Mike Colle

**Toronto City Councillor | Eglinton-Lawrence**

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## Endorsing the Establishment of Somali Cultural and Recreation Centre Project in Toronto

Dear Community Partners,

Public spaces in neighborhoods are one of the most valuable forms of civic infrastructures in any city. These spaces provide a central physical location for organizing community events and services, preserving local history and advancing community contributions. They address active recreational needs throughout the seasons, advance artistic expressions, and serve as a social hub for people of all ages and abilities. When planned right, these community spaces also serve to preserve urban green spaces through important design features and help create programming that contributes to the overall health and well-being of local communities via outdoor leisure and recreation.

With these principles of sustainable and inclusive community-building at the core of this initiative, it is my distinct pleasure to offer my endorsement and support for the establishment of the Somali Cultural and Recreation Centre ("Centre") in Toronto.

I wholeheartedly voted in support of the [Toronto City Council motion in July 2022](#) that committed to supporting the establishment of this Centre.

This Centre will be an important community infrastructure project and anchor that will tangibly benefit the vibrant and diverse Somali community in Toronto and the residents of the city at large. I am excited that this Centre will serve as a hub of excellence that preserves and celebrates the immense cultural contributions of Toronto's Somali community and enhances the cultural fabric of this world-class city. Furthermore, I am hopeful 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.

Sincerely,

Mike Colle  
Toronto City Councillor  
Eglinton-Lawrence