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As a former teacher, I am saddened to see the closure of the Ontario Science Centre. Over my 12 years of teaching, I took countless field trips to the OSC, even as recently as last year, and saw first-hand how it sparked joy and inspiration in my students. I know that I share this nostalgia and sadness with generations of Ontarians who have visited and benefitted from the museum.

The recent closure of the OSC was driven by incompetent and irresponsible governance. The current provincial government and the City of Toronto have had six years to fix the OSC, making it unacceptable that we are now facing the permanent closure and movement of this cultural and scientific gem. Much of the museum's value comes from its central location. Located right off the DVP, as well as on the TTC's soon-to-open Eglinton Crosstown, the OSC is accessible to urban and suburban residents alike. As Toronto's suburbs do not have many attractions, the OSC is a valuable third space for families from across the GTA. Speaking from personal experience and the concerns of Scarborough residents, moving the OSC downtown would make it inaccessible for the diverse communities it has served for decades. Ontario Place simply does not have the same capacity or convenience as North York.

It is important to note that the City of Toronto owns the land the OSC sits on, giving us a stake in the OSC's future. I support Councillors Matlow and Burnside in their motion to conduct an objective analysis to assess the feasibility of a City takeover of the museum's operations. As the Councillors note, the City has an obligation to explore all possible means to keep the OSC open at its current location. What happens with the OSC will set the precedent for what happens with other attractions on city-owned land, such as Casa Loma and the Toronto Zoo.

I urge Council to fight to keep the Ontario Science Centre open in its current location. As owners of the land the museum sits on, we have a role to play in ensuring a future for the OSC that benefits everyone. Its closure and removal from the current site would be a major loss to all Torontonians - we need to fight to keep the OSC open and explore alternative ways to keep the museum in its current location.

Sincerely



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