



Bhutila Karpoche

MPP / Députée / གྲོས་ཚོགས་འཐུས་མི། • Parkdale—High Park

November 21, 2019

Good evening, everyone.

First, let me tell you how sorry I am to miss your AGM. I have recently had a baby, and in juggling newborn care along with my duties in the Legislature and the community, I was unfortunately unable to make it this evening. I'm looking forward to hearing an update on your AGM from Carly.

As you may know, my Constituency Office is right here in the Junction, making us a part of this incredible BIA. I consider the Junction one of the very best places in all of Toronto to live, work, and shop, so I truly believe myself and my team are very lucky to be able to enjoy this neighbourhood and all it has to offer every day.

We have faced some challenges recently with the loss of affordable housing at the Peacock, and we have seen an increase in those living in poverty along our streets, but you, as small business owners, have always shown you care about both social issues as well as business. You make us all proud. You've also displayed why small business is the engine of our economy. You create jobs, and you help keep our local economy strong. There can be no overestimating your value.

My parents were small business owners and so I understand the incredibly tough road owning a small business can be. I know that you have put countless hours, endless financial investment, and all of your heart into your businesses. I can see your passion for what you do and what you provide. And I am grateful for how the Junction BIA allows you to work together to promote your businesses, beautify this street, and participate in fantastic community events. I have enjoyed seeing dancers from the Creative Children's Dance Centre showing off their skills in your shop windows during the holiday season, and I have loved the buzz of excitement during the Junction Summer Solstice Festival and love going to the Night Market too. The Junction has really come a long way and so thank you for making this neighbourhood what it is today.

Please know that my office is here for you. We are just down the street, and we are so proud of this fantastic community. Reach out to us anytime.

It's my privilege to work alongside you and for you.

Have a wonderful AGM, and please keep in touch.

Bhutila

Community Office

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