



**CATHOLIC & CEMETERIES
FUNERAL SERVICES**
ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

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April 13, 2021

To: Mayor Frank Scarpitti and City of Markham Councillors

Re: Yonge St. North Subway Extension

At a recent Markham General Committee meeting held on March 22, 2021, Metrolinx presented its preferred subway alignment Business Case. Media reports state that opponents to this preferred alignment suggest an alternative of possibly having the proposed Subway extension aligned along Yonge Street and tunnelled under Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services – Archdiocese of Toronto is strongly opposed to such a proposal.

Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, serving the City of Markham and York Region, is a sacred and holy place consecrated by the Church and is dedicated to the burial of the Catholic faithful. There are over 90,000 deceased loved ones buried at this cemetery that are respectfully visited regularly by family members and friends and another 30,000 living Catholics that have pre-arranged their bereavement services at Holy Cross Cemetery. There is also an active Funeral Home on the cemetery grounds performing as many as five religious funeral services each day.

To tunnel under the cemetery would be disrespectful to the deceased and the families we serve. It would be unfortunate to have to engage the living families of the deceased loved ones buried at Holy Cross Cemetery and those that have made pre-arrangements, to now become political and rally against any suggestion of a subway extension that would consider infringing on the boundaries of this sacred and holy place.

Please take this into consideration when discussing the proposed Subway extension at future Markham General Committee or Development Services meetings.

If you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Richard K. Hayes
President & CEO

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