

**REMARKS FOR Councillor Paul Ainslie  
Award Celebration  
Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization  
Wednesday, September 21, 2016  
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

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Good afternoon everyone.

I am pleased to be here today to take part in the award celebration for the Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization, which was recently awarded the 2016 Governor General's Medal in Architecture.

Since its opening in 1965, Nathan Phillips Square has served as the City's premier public space and civic gathering place for Torontonians, a leading tourist attraction for the city, and a national and provincial landmark.

Nathan Phillips Square hosts a variety of community and special events, which are attended by more than 1.5 million visitors annually. This includes the weekly seasonal farmers' market that is taking place here in the Square today.

The revitalization of Nathan Phillips Square was an important investment to reinvigorate Toronto's greatest public space, and

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create a more functional, environmentally sustainable meeting place for residents and tourists.

Future generations will be able to enjoy Toronto's heritage enhanced in this modernized form that embodies openness, democracy and community.

The revitalized Square includes:

- A versatile new Theatre Stage with an elegant roof canopy, wide stairs leading to the elevated walkway and performance support space below grade;
- a Skate Pavilion and Concession at the southwest corner of the Square, with skate rental and changeroom space, rink support facilities, a food concession, public washrooms and a generous roof terrace overlooking the Square;
- a redesigned landscape along the edges of the Square and the west side, with an increased number and variety of trees, mixed tree species and innovative and improved soil planting;
- a larger and enhanced Peace Garden in the western landscaped area of the Square;

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- the creation of a new green roof on the City Hall podium roof, with extensive landscaped gardens, a courtyard framing the Council Chamber and a podium terrace;
- new planting and landscape surfaces for the Queen Street forecourt to encourage the flow of pedestrians into the Square;
- improved overhead walkway connections to the second levels of the skate pavilion; and
- a seasonal “disappearing” water fountain feature in the centre of the Square, which will consist of nine fountain jets providing cooling and adding a playful element to the Square, while allowing the full range of activities to take place on the Square uninterrupted.

I am happy to have with us here today a number of key people who helped in the planning, design and completion of this ambitious and important project.

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From the City of Toronto, we have the Chief Corporate Officer Josie Scioli, whose team led the project management of the revitalization.

From the Nathan Phillips Square Advisory Committee, we have the Chair, Scott Mullin, who provided advice to City staff on matters related to the revitalization project.

And from PLANT Architect, and Perkins + Will Canada, the project's lead architects, we have Chris Pommer and Andrew Frontini, who were presented with the 2016 Governor General's Medal in Architecture yesterday during a ceremony at Rideau Hall.

The Governor General's Award in Architecture recognizes outstanding achievement in recently built projects by Canadian architects, and the Nathan Phillips Square Revitalization design was one of only twelve projects selected from across Canada to be presented with this prestigious award.

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This award tops off a long list of awards that the project has received, including the National Urban Design Award, the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects National and Regional Award of Excellence, the Green GOOD design Award, the Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Award of Excellence, the Design Exchange Silver Award, and the Toronto Urban Design Award of Excellence.

On behalf of my fellow members of Council I would like to thank you for your excellent work at revitalizing this important public square and design a square that where Torontonians and visitors from around the world gather, share memories and come together to celebrate community.

I would also like to thank the organizers and participants of today's event, and I hope that you enjoy the remainder of today's celebration.

Thank you.

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