**Office of the Mayor**

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FIND YOUR COUNCILLOR HERE <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/council/members-of-council/>

Dear Mayor Tory and Councillor XXXX,

I strongly object to the City Park Department’s extremely short sighted and deeply insensitive decision to reject a recent application to have a street in Earl Bales Park named in honour of the late Russian human rights and pro-democracy activist, Boris Nemtsov.

Boris Nemtsov was a beacon of hope for peace and stability in the Central and Eastern Europe and the world as a whole.

Mr. Nemtsov brought diverse communities together by promoting mutual respect, human rights and the values of freedom and democracy.

In stark contrast to the Putin regime, Mr. Nemtsov encouraged dialogue and understanding and stood up for the sovereignty of all independent nations.

Most importantly in the face of the threat of violent repression and repeated incarceration, he selflessly stood up for the rights of his countrymen and paid the ultimate price for doing so, when he was assassinated by professional gunmen steps from the Kremlin in February 2015.

The City of Toronto has an opportunity honour Mr. Nemtsov’s sacrifice and all the he stood for, even in the small way of naming a park street in his honour. We cannot allow our city to cower in the face of bullying intimidation by the agents of malign foreign dictators. We must support and celebrate those who bravely stand up to them.

I join the Central and Eastern European Council in Canada and the hundreds of Russian and local community members who support this effort and call on Mayor Tory and Toronto City Councillors to overturn the city Park’s department’s timid decision to reject this critically important application.

Yours Truly,

Your Name

Your Email

Your Telephone Number

CC ceecouncilcanada@gmail.com