



April 11th, 2026

Mayor Olivia Chow
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Via e-mail: mayor_chow@toronto.ca

Re: FIFA World Cup Restrictions

Dear Mayor Chow:

We are taking this opportunity to reach out to you with respect to concerns shared with us by our RESCON members (Residential Construction Council of Ontario) regarding the forthcoming FIFA World Cup and specifically the restrictions being implemented by the City of Toronto.

We have been in contact with you before on this issue and have been working with Mike Barnet and Dave Twaddle to seek to mitigate the impact of the restrictions that constitute the City's plans. We are grateful for both Mike and Dave's work with us and appreciate measures that have been taken to date. We continue, however, to be contacted by our RESCON members who are working in the City of Toronto and who note that even with the amendments, the restrictions will still significantly impact their ability to work.

The impact on the homebuilding sector, as noted, will be significant and will create serious issues for those constructing homes and purchasers who await the completion of their residences.

We also note potential health and safety considerations for workers during these restriction periods which is also a concern.

By way of this letter, we wanted to let you know that our individual members will be contacting the City directly with concerns in alignment with our advocacy to date. It is their hope, and ours, that by providing the City with site-related specific concerns the impacts being anticipated clearly require further mitigation.

It is critical that it be understood that the homebuilding sector is a large part of the economy and the restrictions being proposed will significantly affect delivery timelines for purchasers and future residents of the City who are awaiting completion of their homes.

These delays will also potentially include TARION (new home consumer protection agency) which responds to issues associated with completion dates that in turn could have financial implications which could be significant.

Again, we acknowledge the work Mike and Dave have been doing with us, but it is imperative that more be done.

The World Cup Stadium at Exhibition Place has indeed been expanded, but only to 47,000 attendees. The Fan Zone located at Fort York has a capacity of 20,000 people. Combined we're looking at 67,000 coming down to event spaces for the six games being played in Toronto up until July 2nd.

While we recognize that the subsequent games may be televised either at the Fan Zone or possibly the Stadium and may attract people, the number once again cannot exceed 67,000 people.

Consider that Pride Week events attract each day numbers far in excess of 67,000. Likewise, the Pride Parade attracts from 750,000 to 1,000,000 people and Canada Day events similarly bring large crowds down to the waterfront. However, restrictions, if any, on construction activity are far less than what is being proposed for FIFA World Cup. Or the Taylor Swift concerts or indeed the Blue Jays World Series run. All of these were managed without undue restrictions.


We appreciate, for example, that the restriction period has been reduced by two weeks on the front end (May) but to continue restrictions for all of July when the last actual game is played July 2nd simply defies reasonableness and logic.

So, by way of this letter we request that another review be undertaken to further reduce unnecessary restrictions affecting the industry and that as we and our members reach out together to the City once again with observations, recommendations and insights they are acted upon to ensure that unintended consequences associated with overly burdensome restrictions do not materialize.

Attached for reference is a list of recommendations for amendments that we have already submitted to the City which we would request you review once again.

We thank you for your attention in advance to this matter.

Yours truly,



Richard Lyall
President
RESCON

cc Mike Barnet - Mike.Barnet@toronto.ca
Dave Twaddle - Dave.Twaddle2@toronto.ca
Adam Chaleff - Adam.Chaleff@toronto.ca

2026 FIFA World Cup Restrictions Construction Sector Recommendations

Issue

The broader construction sector is concerned about the impact of proposed restrictions associated with the FIFA World Cup. Current proposed restrictions will, if implemented fully, have broad impacts on the ability to continue work within the zones and parameters outlined resulting in projects having to cease operations which will result in job interruptions for workers and broader impacts across the sector. The associated outcomes will potentially include delayed project completions including with respect to housing occupancy timelines.

Recommended Adjustments to City of Toronto FIFA World Cup Restrictions

May 1st, 2026 to May 15th, 2026

During this time, the industry advocates for “business as usual” with the exception of areas surrounding Exhibition Place, the Toronto Stadium and the Fort York area which will accommodate the “World Cup Fan Zone.”

May 15th, 2026 to June 1st, 2026

Restrictions as proposed where necessary come into effect in the area south of Queen Street West with areas north of Queen Street West continuing “business as usual.” Arterial roads directly associated with the World Cup (Dufferin Street and Bathurst Street) included within the proposed current city restrictions. Also, continuing to be included within the restrictions is the area surrounding Exhibition Place, the Toronto Stadium and the Fort York area which will accommodate the “World Cup Fan Zone.”

June 1st, 2026 to July 2nd, 2026 (inclusive)

Restrictions as proposed by the city are reasonably implemented including the 3-day full closure around World Cup games and outlined limitations on arterial roads as well as other designated World Cup areas. This will include restrictions in the area surrounding Exhibition Place, the Toronto Stadium and the Fort York area which will accommodate the “World Cup Fan Zone.” Where possible, construction activity to continue on non-arterial roads or non-priority areas. Regular deliveries from 7 – 11 a.m. the morning before a game.

July 3rd, 2026 – July 31st, 2026

Restrictions to continue in the area surrounding Exhibition Place, the Toronto Stadium and the Fort York area which will accommodate the “World Cup Fan Zone.” Restrictions to continue on arterial roads only where necessary, otherwise construction activity to resume on a “business as usual” approach in all other areas unless it is reasonably and

demonstrably determined that a given location or roadway is required for legitimate World Cup use in which case restrictions are imposed on a limited basis.

Summary

These modifications to the proposed city restrictions will reasonably constitute a compromise which will facilitate continued construction activity which will effectively mitigate to some degree the impact of World Cup protocols on a vital sector of the city's economy. Of vital importance, is a more robust, specific and clear communications approach by the city which allows for unambiguous understanding of what restriction will be implemented and where these will take place along with an understandable and responsive appeal/exemption process with respect to areas where reconsideration is warranted.