

April 27, 2011

Dear UTS Community:

We are writing to thank you for your support following the University of Toronto's decision not to proceed with renovating our facility at 371 Bloor Street West as we had proposed. We received numerous letters, emails and phone calls of support from alumni, students, staff, faculty and parents. It is extremely heartening to know that the UTS community is committed to ensuring the future of this great institution and is ready to help build the kind of school UTS needs for the future at another site.

Currently, the Board is working on a plan of action which includes a comprehensive review of issues, opportunities and options to find a new home for UTS. Our work on the UTS Proposal submitted to the University gives us a head start on this. Our first task will be discussions with the University to assure terms for relocation that maximize our options and minimize disruption and uncertainty. Our focus will be a permanent home, with the physical space and facilities to fully support all our learning programs and provide a state of the art learning environment for our students. In the meantime, we will be working closely with the University of Toronto to maintain our current facility until we relocate in approximately 10 years.

371 Bloor Street West has been home to UTS for one hundred years and we recognize that it is difficult for many of us to imagine UTS somewhere else. However, the reality is that it is simply not big enough, with the kind of space or facilities to support the new educational and physical demands needed to meet the future needs of UTS students. While it may be a heritage building, long on charm and history, it is old, small, badly outdated and barely meets our needs now. The prospect of new space and a permanent home to continue the UTS tradition is very exciting in what it can and will mean for the school in the next century.

As part of the UTS Strategic Plan "Building the Future", we have been planning for a future facility – regardless of location – and have a strong understanding of the kind of physical space and facilities that will fully support and enhance the UTS tradition of excellence. With your help and input, we'll continue to develop and refine that plan. The Building Committee of the UTS Board (Board Director David Rounthwaite '65 (Chair), Board Director Donald Schmitt '71, Board Chair Bob Lord '58, UTS parent Stephen Moranis, David Allan '78, UTS faculty member and local resident Josh Fullan, and Principal Michaele Robertson), is turning its full attention and focus to first obtaining the commitment of the University of Toronto to the terms of our move, next to finding the right location and then to building our new home.

In last week's announcement, we committed to keeping you involved and informed. In addition to updates such as this letter, we plan to post additional information and questions and answers on the UTS website building page at www.utschools.ca/building; host town halls and other forums to get your input and feedback; and will continue to respond to your individual comments to building@utschools.ca. We are determined and confident that UTS will have the right home for the future and that the UTS community will have an important say in what that looks like.

A number of you asked questions we'd like to share today:

I disagree with U of T's decision to not implement the UTS Site Redevelopment Proposal for 371 Bloor St. Should I express my concerns directly to U of T and urge them to reconsider?

We appreciate your passion and offers of support. UTS and The University of Toronto have had a long, close history and a very strong professional working relationship, and we look forward to continuing this mutually beneficial connection. The University has stated that it will assist UTS in the site search process and help with the acquisition, including providing financial and other support. We intend to and need to work cooperatively with the University on every aspect of our relocation. We would suggest that the best thing you can do at the moment is to continue to unite behind UTS' interests and let the Board and Building Committee determine whether, when and where pressure needs to be applied. We believe the UTS community can play an important role in ensuring that the University delivers on its stated commitment to assist UTS in its relocation, rather than apply pressure aimed at changing the decision to not implement the Site Redevelopment Proposal.

Will moving UTS to a new site and building a brand new school be more costly than renovating 371 Bloor Street? Won't a downtown location be prohibitively expensive?

Our intent is a new building project at similar or lower costs to renovating 371 Bloor Street West. The 371 Bloor Site Redevelopment Proposal included a number of costs that will not be incurred in a new location. These include: costs related to required upgrades to electrical and heating systems, which will likely be lower in a new facility or renovation of an existing building with better mechanical systems; the need to pay for interim "swing space" to accommodate the school during renovations; and additional costs to accommodate University facility uses on our site. In addition, freehold title to a new site allows us to explore financing and development options that simply were not available to us had we stayed at 371 Bloor. In terms of location, we are confident that there are alternatives available to UTS that are centrally located, accessible by transit, and could support our requirements.

How can I help?

In addition to staying involved and providing input and feedback on our building plans, the other very important area where we need your support is to help raise the necessary funds required to build UTS a new permanent home. The Advancement Committee is already hard at work planning for a fundraising campaign for a new building and much-needed bursary supports. We sincerely hope that, amidst all the competing demands for your financial support, you will choose to support UTS. We are confident that with the University's assistance, combined with the right financing and your support, we can raise the necessary funding to finally provide future UTS students with the right facility for the future.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued support. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress. Please stay in touch on the building page of the UTS website at www.utschools.ca/building address or via building@utschools.ca.



David Rounthwaite '65
Chair, UTS Building Committee