

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Build Toronto opens pedestrian-friendly retail shopping centre at Wilson subway station

New centre at 75 Billy Bishop delivers 130 jobs, \$1.275 million in revenue for the City and enhanced public realm

Toronto, Ontario – November 23, 2017 – Build Toronto today announced the official grand opening of 75 Billy Bishop Way, Shops at Wilson Station, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Build Toronto Board Chair Councillor David Shiner and local Ward 9 Councillor Maria Augimeri. The new 4.5-acre retail shopping centre, located directly on the Yonge-University subway line, has generated \$1.275 million in revenue from development charges and fees, and will continue to deliver \$0.8 million annually in revenue from new property taxes for the City, as well as providing important City-Building elements such as job creation and walkable, transit-connected retail.

The new 50,000-square-foot retail development was built from a multi-modal perspective to ensure pedestrians, cyclists and cars can move around in the space. Great attention to the customer experience was given through thoughtful design of building layout and placement of landscaping. Covered long-term bicycle parking spots, short-term bicycle spots, an onsite bike air pump and repair station, extra-wide sidewalks, groupings of wooden benches for outdoor gathering spaces and a modern building façade are all features of the new development.

“The Build Toronto team has taken a parking lot and transformed it into a modern and accessible urban shopping destination. The Build Toronto team collaborated with the City of Toronto’s Urban Design Division to create an enhanced pedestrian environment that is substantially different from the neighbouring shopping centre. It is a new gathering place for people who are living in this growing residential community to get to by walking, biking or taking public transit, or by car. This shopping centre was designed and built by Build Toronto on time, on budget, and is now generating revenue for the City of Toronto. It is an example of City-Building at its best,” said Councillor David Shiner, Chair of Build Toronto and Chair of the City’s Planning and Growth Management Committee.

The development generated 91 person years of employment through construction jobs, and will create 130 new jobs in the retail centre. Build Toronto focused on selecting tenants with roots in the Greater Toronto community. The retail centre officially opens with A&W, The Beer Store, Carter’s I OshKosh, Classic Creations, Moores, Nail Gallery, Ren’s Pets Depot, Snuggle Bugz, Starbucks and Vivo Pizza Pasta.

“This development provides for an important investment in our North York neighbourhood with many job opportunities for the community,” said Ward 9 Councillor Maria Augimeri. *“We are focusing on the needs of our existing community and new residents and doing it in a way that supports all modes of transportation. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all of the new staff who will be working here.”*

The new retail centre at 75 Billy Bishop Way is located within an existing retail hub and provides additional options for the growing residential communities nearby, supporting complete communities.

“The City’s long-term vision for intensification around subway nodes and the expertise of our team all contributed to the rapid completion of 75 Billy Bishop Way,” said Bill Bryck, President & CEO of Build Toronto. *“I am proud of the complete communities we can create when we bring City real estate, innovative thinking and collaborative working relationships together.”*

The 4.5-acre site was declared surplus by the City of Toronto in 2009 and transferred to Build Toronto for redevelopment. Construction on the site began on December 2016 and was completed in less than one year, with its official grand opening announcement today.

For retail employment opportunities, please visit the dedicated online job postings page: www.buildtoronto.ca/shopsatwilsonstation/jobs.

About Build Toronto

Build Toronto Inc. is an independent real estate and development investment corporation established by the City of Toronto to create value from the City’s underutilized real estate assets. The company has a unique focus on meeting its City-Building Strategic Priorities, as well as generating a reasonable net financial return for the City. Build Toronto reports to a professional Board of Directors and operates with a vision to develop surplus and underused City land to attract commercial development, create desirable jobs and improve the livability of the City. Build Toronto officially launched and started full operations in May 2010. For more information, visit www.buildtoronto.ca.

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