

It's spring and children everywhere are heading outside...to disappearing playgrounds!

Millions of Toronto tax dollars have been wasted demolishing hundreds of exciting, challenging playgrounds, replacing them with dull, developmentally poor play junk!

New playgrounds are showing a significant rise in serious accidents including broken bones, and stitches. Complaints continue to pour in, from all across the city that with the children mostly gone from the parks, drugs and alcohol have moved in. Crime from youth has increased, as confirmed by the police.

Where are reports on the safety of the new equipment? Nobody knows. Where are the playground inspector reports? The Seaton Residents have been waiting for more than a year to see the report, indicating why their beloved playground is slated for demolition.

As a mother of 3 preschoolers, and a child development specialist, I was horrified and outraged at the situation. More than a year ago, I established a group of concerned citizens, "The Playground Lobby for Active Youth (that is P.L.A.Y). We began an investigation.

We contacted everyone involved with the playground issue, including:

- Municipal Councillors, Parks and Recreation, The Canadian Standard Association, Public and Private Inspection Companies, Playground Manufacturers and many others.
- **Our research shows that, we the public have been lied to. The lies and misinformation that we have been fed about what makes a playground safe, created a panic. Every single, community, daycare, school playground in Toronto came under attack.** Hundreds of playgrounds have been unnecessarily destroyed.

Who is Playing Games with Toronto's Playgrounds?

Why are playgrounds being torn down for no good reason?

Why are they being replaced with inferior, unsafe equipment?

Why are taxpayer dollars being wasted?

Why does no one seem to have any good answers?

We at P.L.A.Y are demanding that the new government recognize this issue. We demand an immediate moratorium on further demolitions, retrofits, construction, pending an investigation. Take demolition budget and give it to the children at Variety Village. Put a one year freeze on the junk that's going in.

We want to be assured that our children's playgrounds will be safe, high quality and suitable for all ages, as they were just a few short years ago.

Thank you,