

January 26, 2006

Toronto's 2006 City Budget is open for discussion

Mayor David Miller and Budget Advisory Committee Chair Councillor David Soknacki are inviting Torontonians to talk about the City's 2006 operating budget.

Across Toronto, participants will hear an update on the City budget and share ideas with their neighbours and City Councillors as they move between different topic discussion areas set up in the room. At each area, a facilitator will assist with the conversations and everyone's ideas will be captured for Council's consideration during the 2006 budget deliberations.

"City Council is committed to engaging the public, keeping them involved with their City," said Mayor Miller. "We want to hear what the public has to say."

"These sessions are an opportunity for Torontonians to learn more about the challenges facing the 2006 operating budget," said Councillor Soknacki, "and to provide their ideas before Council makes final budget decisions in late March."

No registration is required and participants can attend the session of their choice. All facilities are accessible and ASL interpreters will be provided. Participants who require any other special needs accommodated can leave a message at 416-392-4990. TTY number: 416-338-0889.

There are four locations available:

- North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St. (Yonge north of Sheppard), Saturday, February 4, 9:30 - 12:00 noon. *Transit: North York Centre Station*
- Etobicoke Collegiate Institute, 86 Montgomery Rd. (n/e of Islington & Bloor), Saturday, February 4, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. *Transit: Royal York Station - west on Bloor, north on Montgomery*
- East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave (n/w of Coxwell & Mortimer) Wednesday, February 8, 7 - 9:30 p.m. *Transit: Coxwell Station, north on #70 bus*
- Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Borough Drive (n/w of McCowan & Ellesmere), Thursday, February 9, 7 - 9:30 p.m. *Transit: Scarborough Centre Station*

Residents can also provide budget input directly to their local Councillor by contacting his/her office. Access Toronto, 416-338-0338, can provide Councillors' contact information. In addition, deputations (presentations) can be made to the joint meeting of the Budget Advisory/Policy and Finance Committees on February 16 at Toronto City Hall. Call 416-392-6662 to schedule a deputation.

For more information on the 2006 Budget Consultations, please visit the City's Budget web site at www.toronto.ca/budget2006/index.htm

- 30 -

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