

City of Toronto Pre-Budget Submission



**Presentation by Toronto City Councillor Shelley Carroll, Budget Chief,
to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance
Toronto, Ontario - October 22, 2009**

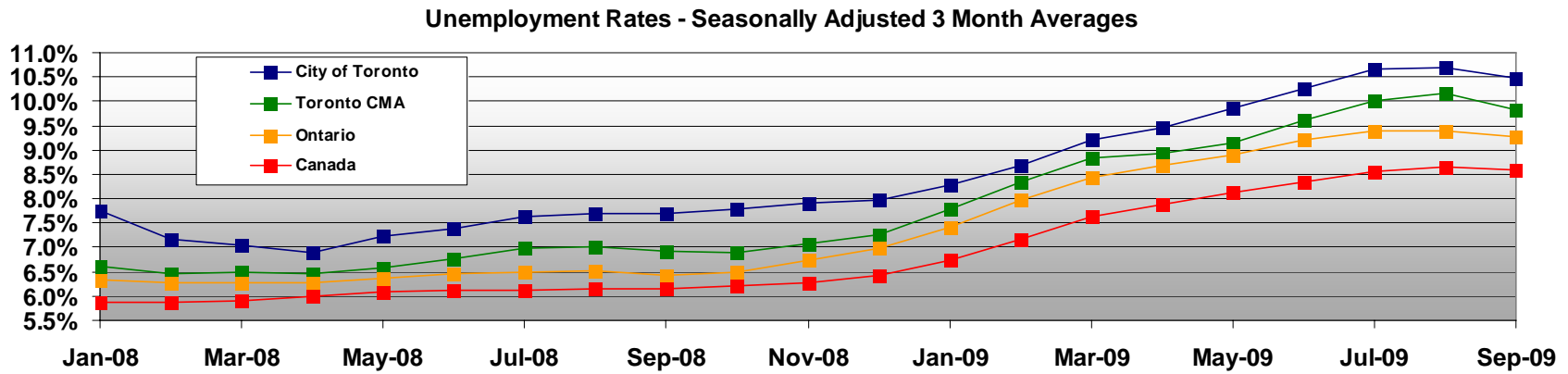
The City of Toronto

- Canada's largest city, home to 2.5M people, 8% of Canada's population
- The 5th largest city in North America after Mexico City, NYC, L.A. and Chicago
- The engine of the fastest growing economic region in North America
- Served by Canada's 6th largest government, the City of Toronto's annual operating and capital budget is approximately \$11 billion
- Facing key social and economic challenges due to the recession, an aging infrastructure, a unique demographic mix, and insufficient revenue growth



The recession has hit Toronto hard

- Toronto's unemployment rate is higher than the national average
- 42,250 Torontonians now rely on EI support; up from 20,020 in 2007
- The City's waiting list for social housing has reached 70,533; up from 65,586 in 2007
- The social assistance case load has increased by ~17,000 cases since 2007
- 1,166 people in family emergency shelters per night in 2009; up from 714 in 2007
- 17,851 families are on the waiting list for the City's child care fee subsidy
- The City's ability to provide increased services is restricted due to lower revenues



Federal infrastructure and economic stimulus investments are welcome

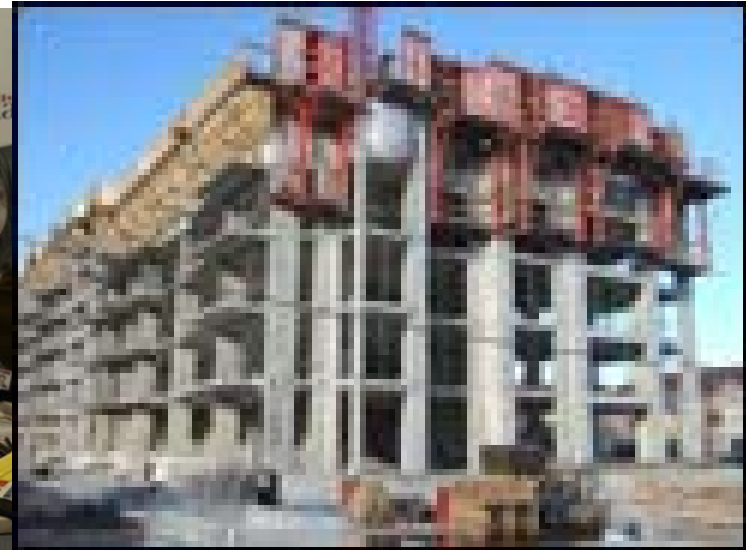


Government partnerships are needed to transition to a new economy

- Governments have shown that they can work effectively together
- Recent infrastructure commitments by all governments demonstrate the tremendous potential and value of long-term sustainable investments
- Governments must continue to work together to invest in and foster emerging sectors that demonstrate potential for growth, such as the green economy, entrepreneurship and small and medium size enterprises



Investments in people & public infrastructure



The federal government can play a significant role in assisting people gain greater access to the labour market by:

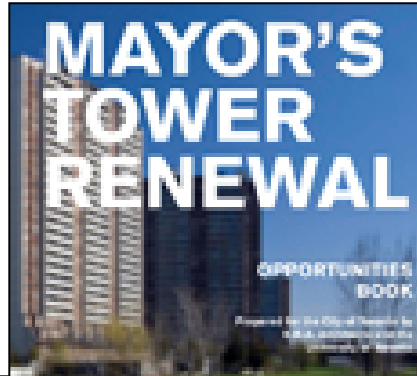
- a) enhancing the Employment Insurance program;
- b) creating a national housing strategy with predictable, long-term funding for affordable housing and homelessness services;
- c) creating a national transit strategy; and
- d) providing further support for an early learning and child care system.

Affordable housing investment boosts economy, environment

- National housing strategy needed to provide enhanced, permanent funding
- Extend the enhanced 2009-11 funding levels at least through 2014/15, for:
 - *new affordable rental (AHI)*
 - *social housing renovation and retrofit*
 - *private rental rehab-retrofit (RRAP)*
- Intergovernmental funding partnership to ensure success of Toronto's 10-year plan, *Housing Opportunities Toronto*



Create green jobs



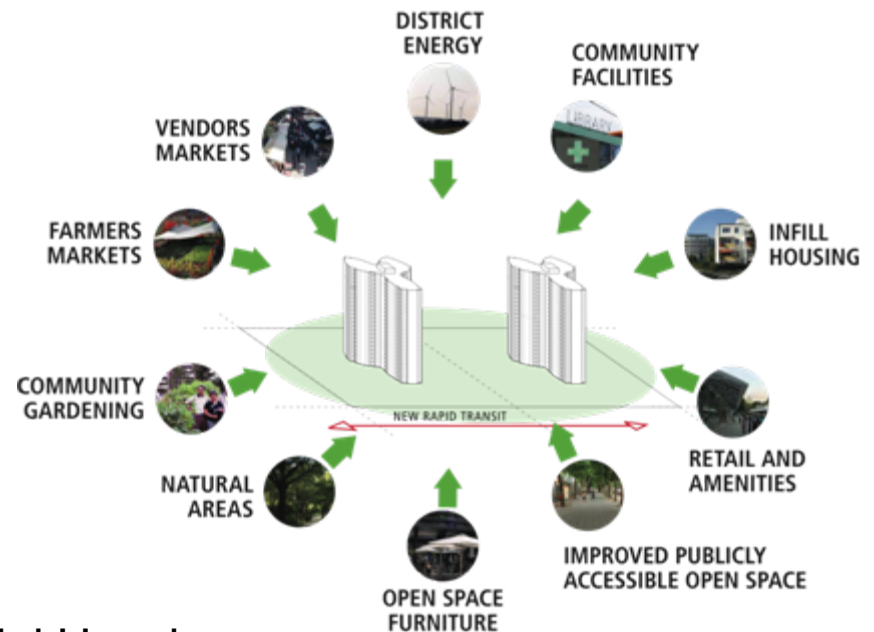
Federal government support for the green economy through investment in:

a) Labour market development and support programs for green buildings and the renewable energy sector

b) Building Retrofits

- Continue the ecoEnergy retrofit for homes program beyond 2011
- Federal support for multi-residential initiatives like Tower Renewal
- Build on the success of the Social Housing Repair and Retrofit program by providing ongoing and sustainable funding for energy retrofits in social housing beyond 2010

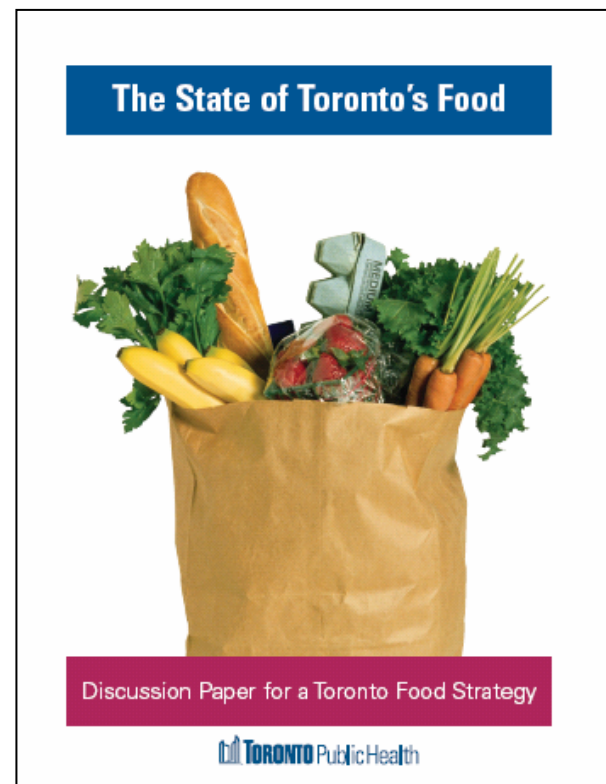
Tower Renewal Opportunity



Federal support for the green economy through investment in: (2)

c) The agricultural sector and local food Initiatives

- Support municipal efforts to encourage local food production to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to create local jobs



Need a federal policy focus on entrepreneurship and SMEs

SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH IN CMAs

2004–2009 (percent change in number)

		Growth Rate
1	Toronto, ON	15.1
2	Guelph, ON	13.8
3	Abbotsford, BC	10.2
4	Vancouver, BC	9.3
5	Oshawa, ON	9.1
6	Kelowna, BC	8.4
7	Calgary, AB	7.4
8	Barrie, ON	6.6
9	Ottawa-Gatineau, ON/QC	6.3
10	Victoria, BC	6.1

Source: Statistics Canada

- a) Enhance investment and lower barriers to entrepreneurship and self employment
- b) Enhance support for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs)
 - Business incubators or regional coordination centres across different sectors, e.g. food production
 - Support to bring existing R&D strength in Toronto to market
 - Support newcomers looking to start up businesses in Canada

Summary of recommendations

1. Invest in people and public infrastructure

- a) Improve the EI program to ensure equal access across Canada
- b) Create a National Housing Strategy with predictable, long-term funding for affordable housing and homelessness services
- c) Create a national transit strategy
- d) Further invest in an early learning and child care system

2. Support the green economy

- a) Labour market development & programs for green buildings and the renewable energy sector
- b) Continue support for building retrofits, including multi-residential units and social housing
- c) Invest in the agricultural sector and local food initiatives

3. Develop a federal policy focus on entrepreneurship and SMEs

- a) Enhance investments and decrease barriers for entrepreneurs and self-employment
- b) Increase supports for Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs)