



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Recession Strategy – Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division

Date:	March 30, 2009
To:	Advisory Committee on Long-Term Care Homes and Services
From:	General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The City of Toronto offers many programs and services to help residents and businesses. These are even more important in times of economic uncertainty. In early 2009, Mayor Miller announced that the City would be improving services to help Torontonians, especially seniors, youth and people looking for work, in the face of the economic downturn.

This report provides a copy of the remarks made by Mayor Miller and provides a summary of the key initiatives being undertaken by the Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the 2009 operating budget.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In announcing program enhancements and innovations under the 'Your City can Help' banner, Mayor Miller affirmed the following:

"Together, we have worked to make Toronto a city that is prosperous and liveable; a city that provides opportunity for all. We have built on the strong compassion and respect we have for one another by investing in priority neighbourhoods and in services that help those who fall behind to find housing and employment.

But as uncertainty continues to swirl around the economy, people are understandably worried. They're worried about the essentials, like paying rent and buying groceries. They're worried about their businesses and the people they employ. And they're worried about the services that keep our city working, like public transit.

I want to assure you that your city is ready to help wherever we can.

This year, we're freezing TTC fares to help keep household costs down while freezing development charges on residential construction to keep people working in the construction industry. Council approved a 10-year, \$25 billion capital program that will create 35,000 jobs each year. In addition to these programs, we are constantly improving city services to make them work better for Torontonians. For example, we have re-focussed our Toronto Employment and Social Services to place the emphasis on employment.

Still, there are Torontonians – our neighbours, family members, friends, and employers – who will need a little extra help to make it through these uncertain times. Toronto Helps is designed to make it easy to find the programs and services the city offers. There are dozens of programs available for residents and businesses, and several new and enhanced programs for 2009.

Your City government is doing its part to help people through uncertain economic times and to ensure that we continue to build a great city with opportunity for all, and where no one gets left behind.”

COMMENTS

The following summarizes the various enhancements undertaken by the Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division:

1. Homemakers and Nurses Services Program

The City's Homemakers and Nurses Services program (HMNS) provides homemaking help, based on financial and eligibility criteria, for low-income seniors and adults with disabilities or chronic illnesses. The value of HMNS is in supporting individuals towards healthy aging, maintaining independent living in the community and preventing the decline that often leads to higher cost healthcare services, including admission to long-term care homes. Currently serving approximately 2,400 individuals and providing over 170,000 hours of service per year, HMNS is expanding to provide an extra 10,000 – 11,000 hours of service annually, serving an additional 100 – 120 people.

2. Cafeteria Service open to Low Income Seniors within Local Communities

The City's long-term care homes operate limited cafeteria services. The division is opening its noon-hour cafeteria service to low-income seniors in the immediate community for them to purchase nutritious meals at low cost (including take out service). The cost for an entrée, vegetable, potato and coffee/tea will be under \$5.00 (minor

additional fee for take-out may be required). Seniors will be able to register for meals on a regular basis, attend periodically and/or purchase take-out. Although the volume of meals provided will vary based on the level of community response, it is anticipated that each cafeteria will be able to serve more than the estimated 25 people per location, Monday through Friday. This expanded cafeteria service is available in Bendale Acres, Castlevue Wychwood Towers, Cummer Lodge, Fudger House, Kipling Acres, Lakeshore Lodge, Seven Oaks and True Davidson Acres.

3. Seniors Drop-in Services at Adult Day Programs

Three of the City's Long-Term Care Homes have opened their doors to the community through the creation of safe seniors' drop-in services for vulnerable seniors. The drop-in services will provide a place for seniors to feel safe, socialize and develop friendships and/or access information about available community services. Although individuals attending the drop-in services will not stay for the entire day, each home will be able to coordinate support for up to 15 to 20 individuals, Monday through Friday (10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.). Drop-in services are located at Bendale Acres, Kipling Acres and Cummer Lodge.

An update regarding the implementation of these three (3) service expansions will be provided at the meeting.

Individuals needing more information about any of the City's services may access this information at: www.toronto.ca/torontohelps.

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SIGNATURE

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