

INQUIRY OF THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

From: Councillor Michael Walker

Date: January 15, 2009

Subject: The City's Welfare Reserves

Given the current deteriorating state of the global economy and the fact that the worst is yet to come in terms of economic and social impacts upon Canadians, it seems prudent for City Council to prepare Toronto and its residents for what may come. City Council must ensure our social safety-nets do not fail. This economic downturn is projected to affect us for the next 2 - 5 years.

City Council must be proactive to make sure we've done all we can to prepare our city for high rates of unemployment, homelessness, malnutrition (especially families), as well as reduced development activity and reduced revenue for the City.

With this in mind, I request the answers to the following information be provided:

- (i) Average monthly caseload for Ontario Works for the calendar year 2008, including month-by-month breakdown;**
- (ii) A retrospective comparison of average monthly caseloads since calendar year 1998, budgeted and actual;**
- (iii) The dollar amounts contained in the City of Toronto reserve funds for Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, and all other major supportive reserve funds;**
- (iv) A status update of any sectors of City of Toronto operations particularly susceptible to changes in the economy.**

Sincerely,

**Michael Walker
Councillor – St. Paul's**

January 23, 2009

Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
City of Toronto
12th Floor, West Tower
City Hall
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

I have received the Administrative Inquiry from Councillor Michael Walker dated January 15, 2009 entitled "The City's Welfare Reserves".

The average monthly caseloads for Ontario Works for the period 1998 to 2008 are attached in Table #1 based on available information.

My most recent report on the balances and obligations for reserve and reserve funds – third quarter variance report – is available on-line as Budget Committee Report BU40.3 which was before the Budget Committee on November 17, 2008. The current balance in the Ontario Works Reserve Fund (XR2101) is \$1,440,354 which includes the 2008 interest allocation and the Social Services Stabilization Reserve is \$8,271,407. These figures will be finalized when the year-end accounts are closed and audited; however, it is not anticipated that there will be further significant adjustments to either account.

With regard to "a status update of any sectors of the City of Toronto operations particularly susceptible to changes in the economy", I will be submitting a report to the February 19, 2009 meeting of the Budget Committee on this matter.

Yours truly,

Cam Weldon
Acting Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

c: Mayor David Miller
Joseph P. Pennachetti, City Manager

ONTARIO WORKS CASELOAD HISTORY 1998 - 2008

Month	1998		1999		2000		2001		2002	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
January	86,831	88,000	73,199	73,199	74,975	74,975	64,161	64,500	67,811	69,482
February	85,375	87,800	72,549	73,299	74,069	74,069	63,391	64,400	67,922	71,288
March	84,960	87,500	72,636	73,449	73,200	74,669	62,833	64,100	67,955	73,037
April	83,496	88,100	71,374	73,809	72,680	75,169	61,978	63,900	68,530	74,124
May	83,157	88,400	72,420	74,259	71,516	75,669	61,859	64,300	68,248	75,245
June	82,360	87,700	75,519	74,609	70,913	76,269	61,663	64,600	68,657	75,433
July	81,352	86,800	75,039	74,909	69,527	76,969	61,315	64,900	67,756	75,622
August	80,135	87,500	75,420	75,209	68,791	77,669	62,173	65,200	68,315	75,885
September	78,866	88,000	75,722	75,009	67,193	78,369	64,346	65,500	67,858	74,767
October	76,042	88,300	77,279	74,809	65,219	79,069	63,476	65,800	66,925	77,326
November	74,341	88,800	75,830	75,409	64,496	79,879	63,065	66,300	65,580	78,303
December	73,126	89,100	74,895	76,031	63,264	81,225	62,750	66,500	65,671	79,488
Average	80,837	88,000	74,324	74,500	69,654	77,000	62,751	65,000	67,602	75,000

Month	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
January	66,591	69,350	67,056	67,056	67,077	69,556	71,673	71,150
February	66,682	69,850	67,370	67,370	68,090	69,870	71,811	71,850
March	66,817	70,350	67,874	67,874	68,902	71,374	72,327	72,250
April	66,502	70,950	67,355	69,216	69,138	72,155	71,563	73,300
May	67,029	71,450	67,370	71,214	69,641	72,370	72,302	73,900
June	67,238	71,950	67,290	73,214	69,755	72,290	72,031	74,800
July	67,175	72,450	67,147	73,264	69,663	72,764	71,905	76,100
August	66,497	72,650	67,220	74,414	70,104	72,928	71,946	76,500
September	66,676	72,950	67,020	75,264	70,041	72,364	71,924	76,800
October	65,800	73,550	66,600	74,585	69,628	72,614	71,012	77,200
November	65,209	74,050	66,379	75,428	69,852	72,715	70,594	77,650
December	65,712	74,450	66,811	75,101	70,250	73,000	70,426	78,500
Average	66,494	72,000	67,124	72,000	69,345	72,000	71,626	75,000

Month	2007		2008	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
January	75,136	72,800	74,726	74,600
February	75,934	72,950	74,288	74,950
March	76,406	73,150	73,895	75,400
April	75,489	74,400	74,810	75,900
May	76,251	75,100	74,957	76,400
June	75,749	75,200	75,237	76,800
July	75,378	75,400	75,902	77,200
August	75,041	75,950	76,124	77,600
September	75,026	75,724	76,867	78,000
October	73,792	76,150	76,876	78,500
November	73,267	76,352	76,515	79,027
December	72,784	76,819	78,301	79,627
Average	75,021	75,000	75,708	77,000