



Janet DAVIS

*City Councillor
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January 20, 2011

From: Councillor Janet Davis

To: Community Development and Recreation Committee

RE: Citizenship and Immigration Funding Cuts to Toronto Agencies

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to express my concern about the impacts of the recent and dramatic cuts to agencies serving immigrants in Toronto. The Federal government has cut nearly \$5 million in Citizenship and Immigration Canada funding to 14 agencies in Toronto.

The full scale of the impacts of these cuts are not yet clear, but these cuts will certainly reduce our City's capacity to support newcomers in finding work, housing, and accessing necessary services. It will make the work of building strong, inclusive communities in Toronto harder, and it will erode the strong network of community organizations who deliver essential services to residents across this City. These cuts will also mean that more people will rely on City services to meet their needs.

I therefore urge the Community Development and Recreation Committee to take action to address this important issue. I recommend that:

1. Toronto City Council declare its opposition to cuts in funding for settlement services in Toronto.
2. Toronto City Council request Mayor Ford to write the Prime Minister Harper and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney and call on them to reverse the cuts to these settlement programs.
3. The City Manager report to the next meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee on the impacts of these cuts on the immigrant-serving agencies; the effect on the supports to immigrants in Toronto; the areas of the City whose residents will be most affected by these cuts; and the adequacy of City Services in these areas to make up for the loss in these services.
4. The City Manager work with the agencies serving immigrants and other community groups, including the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, to restore funding for the programs that have been defunded by the Federal Government.

Sincerely,

Councillor Janet Davis
Ward 31, Beaches-East York