



TO PROSPERITY:
**INTERIM POVERTY
REDUCTION STRATEGY**

Executive Committee
June 30, 2015

46%
of Recent Immigrants
live in poverty

37%
of Female Lone Parents
live in poverty

33%
of People in Racialized Groups
live in poverty

30%
of People with Disabilities
live in poverty

37%
of Aboriginal People
live in poverty



VISION

Toronto will:

address the issues

create solutions

drive systemic change

By 2035, Toronto is a city with opportunities for all; a leader in the collective pursuit of justice, fairness and equity. We want to be renowned as a city where everyone has access to good jobs, adequate income, stable housing, affordable transportation, nutritious food, and supportive services.

Objectives



Address Immediate Needs

Ensure vital services are well funded, co-ordinated, and meet the immediate needs of those living in poverty



Create Pathways to Prosperity

Improve the quality of jobs in the city, attract investments to low-income areas, and ensure that City programs and services are integrated, client-centered, and focused on early intervention



Drive Systemic Change

Create a more accountable and participatory government that integrates reducing poverty and inequality as part of day-to-day business and decision making

Housing Stability

Do we want to fund the high cost of homelessness (emergency shelters, hospitals, jails) or the lower cost of stable housing?



1. Improve the quality of all affordable rental housing, including private, public, non-profit, and co-operative housing.



2. Continue efforts to consult and develop an effective policy framework and enforcement strategy with respect to rooming houses.



3. Increase the availability of affordable housing in mixed income and inclusive, complete communities through investment and innovative policy strategies.

Access to Services

Are we providing the services people need or the services easiest for us to provide?



4. Adopt an integrated service approach and ensure all staff and community partners have the tools to help people navigate the social service system.



5. Ensure all programming for children and youth is integrated, inclusive and responsive to current needs.



6. Work across the health and social services sectors to create a seamless support system that takes into account the social determinants of health.

Transportation

How 'public' is our transit system if it is not reliable or affordable to those who most need to access it?



7. Make transit more affordable.



8. Improve services in the inner suburbs.



9. Make decisions on services and capital planning that prioritize those most in need of services.

Food Access

In a wealthy city like Toronto, why do food deserts exist and many children lack enough food to meet their potential?



10. Find ways to ensure children and families have access to affordable, nutritious food.



11. Support initiatives that bring nutritious food to low-income areas.



12. Remove barriers that limit the opportunities for local food production and food skills development.

Quality Jobs & Living Wage

How can a city be prosperous without quality jobs and living wages?



13. Advocate for adequate income supports and extend assistance for residents transitioning into secure employment.



14. Become a living wage employer and advocate to other employers.



15. Develop a job quality assessment tool.



16. Incent inclusive economic development throughout the city, particularly in areas of need, with an emphasis on strategies that leverage the City's economic power.

Institutional Change

Why expect different results if we continue doing things the same way?

17. Oversight

18. Better Measuring &

Monitoring of Needs & Outcomes

19. Poverty-Sensitive Budgeting

20. Community Wealth Creation

21. Change Management & Staff Training

22. TO Prosperity Education Campaign

23. Revamped Equity Lens

24. Dedicated Revenues



Finalizing the Strategy

Timing: 2015 summer and early fall

Process: Develop

- a work plan with timelines and leads for all actions
- financial implications of specific actions
- measurements for the overall strategy and for specific actions
- a financial strategy that identifies ongoing and dedicated resources

Engagement: City will work across its Divisions and Agencies, and with our external partners including residents, community agencies, labour, and business partners

People with lived experience of poverty will continue to be at the heart of this process to ensure that City actions are effective

www.toronto.ca/toprosperity

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