

The Executive Committee  
University of Toronto Students' Union  
12 Hart House Circle  
Toronto, ON  
M5S3J9

### **Letter of Support: Downtown East Five Year Action Plan**

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the University of Toronto Students' Union, please accept this letter as an endorsement for the Downtown East Five Year Action Plan.

The University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) represents over 44,000 full-time undergraduate students at the University of Toronto St. George Campus by providing essential services and advocating on their behalf, including many of the over 6800 University of Toronto students who live within the communities affected by the action plan.

We believe that the reports attached to the Downtown East Action Plan show an immense commitment to the equity, accessibility, and safety of the residents within the Downtown East communities.

At the moment, many students feel vulnerable and unwelcome in the communities in which they reside, whether this is due to a hostile urban environment, increasingly predatory landlords, rising costs of living, or the lack of local, accessible services. Commitments to safe and affordable housing, increased mental health care services, and improvements to front-line services, such as those that deal with concerns of mental health, will ensure that our students feel welcome and safe in their own communities.

Increased equity training for city staff also helps the most marginalized in our communities, especially students who have moved to our city from elsewhere. The ability to understand the lived experiences of others dramatically increases the comfort of individuals when they require services from the city.

The commitments made to the Downtown East community would be a great benefit for the city as a whole, especially the students who reside there. The University of Toronto Students' Union is happy to see the city take action on such critical issues.

Yours in service,

The University of Toronto Students' Union Executive

**From:** [Lucas Granger](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Attachment for Item EC6.16 on the City Council Agenda  
**Date:** July 16, 2019 10:21:33 AM  
**Attachments:** [DTE Letter of Support - UTSU.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

My name is Lucas Granger, and I am the Vice-President External Affairs for the University of Toronto Students' Union.

I am incredibly sorry for the last-minute addition to this item, but the University of Toronto Students' Union also has a letter of support for this item, as attached in this email.

I am sending this letter on behalf of the University of Toronto Students' Union Executive Committee.

Hope this isn't too late to be added to the agenda! Please let me know if there are any questions or concerns.

Yours in service,

**Lucas Granger**

Vice-President External Affairs



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