

From: [Heather Marshall](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: Submission on 2020.CC21.1 on May 28, 2020 City Council
Date: May 27, 2020 5:48:15 PM
Attachments: [CC21.1 TEA Submission to Council 27may2020.pdf](#)

To the City Clerk:

Please add my organization's submission to the agenda for the May 28, 2020 City Council meeting on item 2020.CC21.1, City of Toronto Service Restart and Recovery Update

Our comments are attached as a PDF. Please provide a hyperlink to this submission so that any member of the public can read our comment as part of the official record. Many thanks in advance for your hard work and dedication.

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Sincerely,

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May 27, 2020

Re: CC21.1 City of Toronto Service Restart and Recovery Update

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

We welcome Mayor John Tory's recent endorsement of the Statement of Principles of the C40 Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force and ask Toronto City Council to ensure the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild aligns its recovery plan with these principles to ensure that Toronto's recovery from COVID-19 is healthy, equitable and sustainable.

Furthermore, we ask that Council and the Office of Recovery and Rebuild be guided by the 10 Recommended Principles for a bold, green, and just recovery for Toronto outlined in the [letter Toronto Environmental Alliance and 22 other civil society groups submitted to Council](#) in April:

1. For best results, ensure the recovery and rebuilding process is transparent and community-led
2. Make evidence-based decisions, informed by disaggregated race-based and sociodemographic data collection
3. Advocate immediately and powerfully to secure a New Deal for Toronto from our Federal and Provincial Governments
4. Fast-track and improve Toronto's existing strategies, plans, and commitments in Toronto's recovery and rebuilding plans, in order to build a more equitable, healthy and climate-resilient city
5. Invest in, protect, and center workers in recovery and rebuilding plans
6. Prioritize low-carbon infrastructure, social procurement, and equitable local job creation in recovery and rebuilding
7. Invest in public and community ownership of land and housing to ensure everyone is permanently housed, local food production is increased, and jobs are created
8. Support and sustain the community infrastructure that has developed in response to COVID-19 for ongoing response and recovery work
9. Encourage and prioritize community support and discontinue programs that increase surveillance and harm social cohesion and solidarity
10. Make permanent and expand the public supports and services that have been put in place to respond to this pandemic, rather than cutting services

Based on the City Manager update report before you (CC21.1), we are concerned that the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (TORR) consultation process, initial activities, and intended outcomes being



proposed are not aligned with the Mayor's recent endorsement of C40's recovery principles nor do they address key principles and recommendations we submitted to you at the last Council meeting.

In particular, TEA would like to highlight three key areas of concern that require immediate attention:

1) The TORR Engagement Strategy does not outline a clear public process to ensure the recovery and rebuilding process is transparent and community-led. The people of Toronto need to be part of the reimagining of our city and if you do not genuinely involve them, the recovery and rebuild will fail to meet people's needs.

- We continue to call on Council to ensure transparent and consistent public reporting that allows adequate time for communities and organizations to respond. And, to ensure the recovery and rebuilding plans are community-led with public consultation and engagement centered in their design and delivery. This will ensure that plans reflect the diversity of needs and interests of Toronto residents, and that there is widespread support for their implementation.

2) Sustainability and equity have not been integrated into all 4 themes of the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (TORR). To reimagine Toronto as a healthy, equitable and sustainable city that puts the needs of residents and workers at the centre, we must not reproduce 'business as usual' silos for stakeholder engagement. In particular:

- **City Divisions, Agencies & Resilience/Climate Change:**
 - While the TransformTO climate action plan, Climate Emergency Declaration and Resilience Strategy are referenced and there is an intent to advance programming and initiatives associated with these strategies, none of the initial activities or intended outcomes reference climate action or resilience.
 - While it is indicated that stakeholder engagement has begun in this thematic area, there is no transparency regarding who is being included in this process.
 - There is no reference to other existing strategies and plans that require advancement including Toronto's affordable housing plans, poverty reduction strategy, child care growth strategy, seniors strategy, Indigenous health strategy, overdose action plan, bold inclusionary zoning policy implementation, waste management strategy, Vision Zero, cycling and active transportation plans, and other priority initiatives our city has built over the years.
 - We continue to call on Council to fast-track and improve upon Toronto's existing strategies and plans, while ensuring investments and policies introduced during the COVID-19 recovery and rebuilding phases align to, and advance, the work of creating a more equitable, healthy and sustainable city for all residents.

- **Business, Culture and Promote/Inspire Toronto:**

- While currently listed as stakeholders under the theme of ‘Community & Strategic Alliances’, NGOs, institutions, faith groups, and labour also have critical roles to play in economic support and recovery.
- There is no mention of the critical importance of prioritizing low-carbon infrastructure, social procurement, and equitable local job creation in recovery and rebuilding effort.
- Incorporating environmental and social policy objectives - such as growing the circular economy, local food system transformation to ensure access to food, and inclusive local job creation - into procurement can help to support local businesses, especially those owned by Indigenous people and equity-seeking groups, help keep resources and money circulating locally, and reduce costs across governmental departments and programs. This can contribute to the triple-bottom-line of co-benefits, such as improved social equity, increased community wealth, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- There is no mention of the green industries in Toronto or assurance that their priorities will be considered during consultations with twelve key sectors that will be led by the Toronto Board of Trade.

3) Sustainability and equity priorities have not been integrated into Intergovernmental Actions to Support Recovery Strategies. In particular, economic stimulus should work to achieve Toronto’s climate and equity commitments.

- While the report mentions the need for “critical funding to long-standing municipal priorities such as public transit, infrastructure and housing” it does not identify key climate and equity priorities the City of Toronto has committed to such as building retrofits, renewable energy, extreme weather resilience, and community benefits
- This runs counter to the Council decision CC20.2 passed on April 30 which direct the City Manager to include “laying the foundation for climate change mitigation and resilience” as a key principle in negotiations with the Provincial and Federal governments
- We continue to call on Council to ensure that public recovery spending prioritizes environmentally sustainable low carbon infrastructure and equitable local job creation. Council can achieve this by implementing inclusive, green, circular, and sector-specific social procurement strategies. These strategies should include strong accountability mechanisms by setting hard targets, tracking spending and publicly reporting on progress.

We continue to stand ready to work with you to achieve a bold, green, and just recovery for Toronto.