



## Councillor Joe Mihevc

Toronto City Hall  
St. Paul's West  
Ward 21

TO: Community Development and Recreation Committee

FROM: Councillor Joe Mihevc

SUBJECT: Principles for a Poverty Reduction Strategy

DATE: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

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### BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto, as part of its commitment to social inclusion and poverty reduction, has been working with a broad range of community organizations, faith groups, and others through the 25 in 5: Network for Poverty Reduction. At a forum held at Queen's Park April 14, 2008, the 25 in 5 Network released its founding declaration, which calls for a comprehensive plan that will reduce poverty levels in Ontario by 25% within five years and by 50% before 2018. The declaration lays out the principles of a poverty reduction strategy and outlines specific policy initiatives necessary to reduce poverty.

These principles are consistent with the City of Toronto's objectives of social inclusion and opportunities for all. I believe that the City of Toronto has an important role to play in promoting the development and implementation of a poverty reduction strategy and I am therefore putting forward the following recommendations:

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 1) City Council endorse the principles for a poverty reduction strategy contained in the 25 in 5 Declaration, specifically:
  - a. Sustaining employment means assuring a living standard above poverty for any adult who works full time throughout the year. It means fair pay and stable working conditions for all Ontarians;
  - b. Liveable incomes mean dignity for all Ontarians – including those unable to work; and
  - c. Strong and supportive communities mean affordable housing, early learning and child care, public education and community programs that help people connect;
- 2) The General Manager of Toronto Social Services, as part of her report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Social Assistance in the City of Toronto to Community Development and Recreation Committee, identify ways in which the City of Toronto can advance the poverty reduction initiatives outlined in the 25 in 5 Declaration; and
- 3) The City of Toronto share this report with its partners in other municipalities and the Province.

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