

INQUIRY OF THE CITY MANAGER

From: Councillor Michael Walker

Date: January 15, 2009

Subject: Toronto's Readiness for the Pending Recession/Depression

Given the current deteriorating state of the global economy and the fact that the worst is yet to come in terms of economic and social impacts upon Canadians, it seems prudent for City Council to prepare Toronto and its residents for what may come. City Council must ensure our social safety-nets do not fail. This economic downturn is projected to affect us for the next 2 - 5 years.

City Council must be proactive to make sure we've done all we can to prepare our city for high rates of unemployment, homelessness, malnutrition (especially families), as well as reduced development activity and reduced revenue for the City.

With this in mind, I request the answers to the following questions:

- 1) Will you, as the City's City Manager, be formally reporting to City Council or the Executive Committee regarding:**
 - (i) A presentation on recession-proofing strategies for large cities, such as Toronto;**
 - (ii) A presentation on the City of Toronto's strategies employed in Canada's last recession 1989-1993, including Key Lessons Learned;**
 - (iii) Recommendations for action by City Council to attempt to mitigate the impact of this recession/depression?**

Sincerely,

Michael Walker
Councillor – St. Paul's

January 23, 2009

Ulli Watkiss
City Clerk
City of Toronto
12th Floor, West Tower
City Hall
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms. Watkiss:

I have received the Administrative Inquiry from Councillor Michael Walker dated January 15, 2009 entitled "Toronto's Readiness for the Pending Recession/Depression".

With regard to "Toronto's readiness for the pending recession/depression", the presentation to the Budget Committee on February 10th concerning the 2009 Operating Budget will include a discussion of the City's response to the recession. As well, the Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer will be submitting a more comprehensive report to the February 19, 2009 meeting of the Budget Committee. This report is designed to address questions such as those outlined in Councillor Walker's inquiry.

Yours truly,

Joseph P. Pennachetti
City Manager

c: Mayor David Miller
Cam Weldon, Deputy City Manager & Chief Financial Officer