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TORONTO
SENIORS'
FORUM
...MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

Presentation to Toronto City Council Budget Committee, December 7, 2011

We are: Carol Sahian, Chair of the Toronto Seniors Forum, Maria-Antonieta Smith,
Richard Hudler, members of TSF.

1. *We want you to sit back, relax, take a deep breath as we take you back to a monumental day back in June, during Seniors' Month – when all of you here and full City Council was able to – **unanimously** – pass a motion.*
2. That motion, “CD4.2, Seniors Strategy – Development Process” identifies the Toronto Seniors' Forum – which we represent – as one of the partners to be engaged in the process and support the outcome of this strategy.
3. We need the City's support to continue. We are an integral stakeholder and lead in supporting the success of the Toronto Seniors strategy report. (*due to council in fall 2012) The Toronto Seniors Forum has been continuously supported by the City of Toronto *since 2004. We are excited* to take on this challenge on next year!
4. It was disconcerting to us to learn that as a Council Advisory group our activities were to be reduced by suspending staff supports, **but to our relief** “Motion 6E – to amend Recommendation 1F” subsequently excluded us from that reduction, **but we found it confusing that this**

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5. Furthermore, we are distressed that the motion to exclude us from the reduction is tempered through further consideration by the Budget Committee.
6. The Toronto Seniors Forum is comprised of volunteers representing over 50 seniors' groups scattered throughout Toronto, incorporating a broad range of cultural diversity. We are a strong cross section of our multicultural city!
7. We are the "only ambassadors" to the City from your communities and constituents that you actually represent.
8. *The Federal Gov't under its New Horizon Program for Seniors has recognized us for our diligent work! To date we have secured five grants that have enabled us to work with seniors groups from all over the city around issues of empowerment and advocacy.*
9. *We have engaged seniors in geographical areas of Etobicoke, York, North York, Scarborough, East York. We champion an age friendly city, leading the first Age-Friendly pilot in Ward 10. (*fyi : each grant is 25, 000, 4 were advocacy projects and 1 Age- friendly)*
10. We volunteer a substantial number of hours, we bring our expertise, knowledge and a wealth of life experience

to the city for minimal supports such as "in kind" meeting space.

11. We cannot be expected to work in isolation without a partnership with the City .Toronto will come on the world stage with the upcoming Pan American Games, the world will be looking to our leadership, please demonstrate that Toronto values its growing aging population! Be that municipal champion while the world is watching in 2015.

12. On behalf of all seniors in Toronto, please return us to " Toronto the Good", and be good to your Seniors!"

Thank you.

* Carol Keith-Johnson