

EX8.1.56



ACAS

Asian Community AIDS Services
17 Isabella St., 1st Floor, Toronto, ON M4Y 1M7
www.acas.org. Ph. 416-963-4300, Fax. 416-963-4371

July 27, 2011

To: Members of the Executive Committee

City Manager's Office
11th Floor, East Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

City Clerk's Office
13th Floor West, 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Rob Ford,

I write on behalf of the Board of Directors of Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS). In particular, I write in support of the continued funding of prevention programs focused on HIV/AIDS and sexually-transmitted infections and diseases (STI/STD). Funding of this nature represents a direct and meaningful investment in the community, where the returns include improved quality of life, health and awareness of Torontonians, and tremendous savings for taxpayers in the long-run.

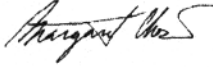
ACAS is the only ethno-specific HIV/AIDS and STI/STD prevention organization targeting the growing East and South-East Asian communities in the City of Toronto, currently representing 16% of the City's population (or 420,000 individuals), according to the latest demographic information on the City's website. Our services are provided in numerous languages and in a culturally appropriate manner to the Chinese, Indonesian, Filipino, Japanese, Thai, Lao, Vietnamese, Korean and other Asian communities of Toronto. Our work assists hundreds of families each year and fosters an environment of support and care. From support services for those individuals living with HIV/AIDS, to youth, yearning to feel safe and secure about their sexuality – we support all of these people every day through our work. Our membership includes people living with HIV/AIDS, physicians, childcare workers, bankers, fashion designers and students. We represent a diverse group of passionate and contributing members of the City, and with its continued support, we can sustain and grow the services that have already added so much value to the lives of Torontonians.

The City's investment in the community through organizations like ACAS improves the health, education, and security of its citizens. The investment is not a waste of taxpayers' money, resources or time, nor is it a pool of gravy. It is an investment in the health and wellness of its families; it supports the creation of vibrant communities; and it is an opportunity for the City to shine through its compassion for some of its most marginalized members. To these ends, the Board of ACAS respectfully requests that the Committee continue its support for, and investment in the important work of ACAS and AIDS Services Organizations, as well as programming for the East and South-East Asian communities of Toronto.

Finally, I wish to express the appreciation of ACAS, its members and service recipients for the support we have received from the City thus far, it has allowed us to make an incredible difference in the lives of Toronto families.

We now ask for your continued support and express our ongoing commitment to working together for a healthier, stronger Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Chow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "C".

Margaret Chow
Chair, Board of Directors
Asian Community AIDS Services