



The Four Villages
Community Health Centre
Working Together for Whole Health

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

Dear Madam,

As the provider of community-based, primary health care in Toronto, The Four Villages Community Health Centre is very concerned about the proposed budget cuts to a number of important services.


Obesity and poverty are two major factors contributing to a host of serious health conditions; cardiovascular disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, depression, arthritis. Yet, the focus of the current city of Toronto budget takes direct aim at effective preventive strategies such as exercise and nutrition.

On November 25, 2011, the federal Health Minister announced obesity as the next epidemic. Research shows more than one third of Ontarians are obese, between 1981-2009 the number has tripled for youth aged 12-17 and doubled for adults. In spite of this, the city of Toronto budget reduces access to recreation, physical education and nutrition programming in all parts of this city.

Furthermore, we know these vital services are particularly important to adults, youth, and children living in poverty. While the national average of 1 in 10 families living in poverty should trigger an immediate response, the city of Toronto's poverty levels reaching 30% should sound the alarm. If anything, we should be increasing resources to these communities. In effect, poorer communities will experience these cuts with greater hardship.

On behalf of the Board of The Four Villages Community Health Centre, I request the Council of Toronto amend the recommended 2011-2012 budget to ensure the protection of recreation programs, the hardship fund, nutrition programs for youth and children and community service grants. These programs and services are critical in the fight against disease and promotion of well being for all Torontonians. Over time, we will see the negative health effects of these cuts putting greater pressure on our practice and the health care system overall.

Sincerely,


Almerinda Rebelo
Executive Director

Cc: Sarah Doucette and Gord Perks, Councillors, Parkdale-High Park, Frances Nunziata, Councillor, York-South Weston

