

**Davenport Perth Neighbourhood Community Health Centre (DPNCHC) Deputation to the Budget Committee of Toronto City Council, Monday November 12, 2012**

Re: 2013 Rate Supported Budgets- Solid Waste Management Services and Recommended Solid Waste Rates for 2013

Davenport-Perth Neighbourhood Community Health Centre (DPNCHC) is a non-profit organization which provides vital support services to individuals experiencing significant economic and social barriers to health. DPNCHC's catchment includes a large part of Ward 17, and sections of Ward 18 and 19. At DPNCHC, we run programs for children aged 0-6 years and their caregivers, school-aged children and youth from low-income families, non-English speaking seniors from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds, and vulnerable adults affected by mental health challenges, chronic illnesses and homelessness. Our programs address the impacts of low income, underemployment and unemployment, social isolation, low literacy skills, lack of adequate, affordable housing, limited access to medical services and affordable nutritious food.

Changes to the City of Toronto's Solid Waste Disposal fee for charities and non-profits will have a significant impact on DPNCHC programs and the people they serve. While the total increase is proposed to take effect incrementally over the next 3 years, by 2015 our fee will be nearly \$6,000, which is an increase of 700% from current levels. In 2013, our Garbage fees will reach nearly \$3,000, an increase of 300%, which will translate into real reductions in our programming.

Examples of the potential impact of the 2013 fees include any of the following options:

- 45 children from low-income families will not be able to participate in outings (i.e. bowling, movies, skating) during the March Break and Summer Holiday periods
- 85 children will not receive snacks at after-school programs for 3.5 months
- 300 isolated adults affected by disability, homelessness and mental health challenges will for be unable to benefit from a Community Dining program (nutritious food in a supportive environment) for 38 days
- 2,500 adults who attend our Drop-In programs will not receive snacks for the entire year
- There will be no African Heritage Month community dinner & celebration which involves 250 young people and other local residents
- There will be no facilitator for youth in our After-school Drumming or Dance program
- Youth in our Summer Leadership Program will receive no honorarium, have no supplies and be unable to travel to use recreation facilities in other areas





The above examples demonstrate how the Solid Waste disposal fee for non-profit organizations will negatively affect our work to create vibrant, safe and healthy communities in Toronto's west end.

At DPNCHC, we provide key social supports for the public benefit at no charge to the City. We are already operating on limited and stretched budgets to provide food and social support services which ultimately save the City money. We work hard to recycle paper, plastics and organic waste at DPNCHC and we are willing to work further with the City to identify additional cost-effective measures which will not produce unnecessary hardship on vulnerable people. We urge Council to consider waiving the garbage pick-up fee for non-profit organizations; we are confident that this decision will enable the City to further invest in the communities and individuals that need it most.

