

Budget Committee  
City of Toronto

Canadian Pensioners Concerned (CPC) has been in existence for over 40 years, based in the City of Toronto. Our concerns are not only for seniors but for all generations. Quality of life for people of all ages is our overriding concern.

The Metro Issues Committee of CPC appreciates the opportunity to respond to the City's proposed 2013 Operating Budget.

1. The proposed Operating Budget makes recommendations to cut services that support vulnerable people. CPC has chosen to make comments on two areas.

### **Long-Term Care Homes and Services**

Seniors are fortunate that Provincial Legislation prevents massive cuts from Long-Term Care Homes funding but there is a cut that CPC considers will affect the quality of care. In spite of the fact that, "The complexity and acuity of care in long-term care homes is rising dramatically."

(Page 12 Analyst Notes) it has been deemed wise to eliminate the half-hour shift overlap

(Page 13 Analyst Notes). This *efficiency* will provide an operating budget savings of \$0.200 million net 2013.

CPC believes that staff needs time, rather than a computer print-out, to pass on insightful information about many of those in their care.

### **Shelter Housing and Support Administration**

The proposed budget shows a \$128 million reduction in housing and homelessness investments. Included are cuts to the services for the homeless and low income persons in Toronto (Pages 4, 5 and 6 Analyst Notes).

Under *Homeless and Housing First* CPC notes that there are cuts in the essential services of housing follow-ups and pre-employment support for those who are transitioning from homelessness to housing. Under *Emergency Shelter and Related Support* CPC observes the heartless, uncaring removal of snacks and food allowances for children and adults in the homeless shelter system. Under *Social Housing System Management* there are fewer housing allowances for low-income renter households.

The proposals mentioned above are a continuation of the significant cuts in the housing area that were made in last year's budget.

CPC realizes that the federal and provincial governments are withdrawing their support for housing and it is the responsibility of voters to put pressure on them. It is also the responsibility of Toronto taxpayers to draw concerns about the proposed budget to the notice of councillors.

Members of Canadian Pensioners Concerned are well aware of the function of taxes in a well-run city. CPC asks if a modest increase in our proposed property taxes from the suggested 1.95% to 2.45% would be better than reduction of services to the vulnerable.

2. CPC would also like to support the following request for funding.

### **Student Nutrition Program**

The Medical Officer of Health has requested money to expand the student nutrition program. A total of \$1.25 million would provide funding to the student nutrition program to cover the rising cost of food, expand the number of operating days in existing programs and expand the number of high needs schools with student nutrition programs by 25 for an additional 7,529 students.

The increase from 2011 in the number of people using Food Banks in 2012 highlights the need to expand this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Kilbourn, President

Board of Directors

Canadian Pensioners Concerned, Ontario Division