

CD 18.5.6

Toronto & York Region Labour Council
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Toronto, ON M3C 1Y8

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Toronto City Council
Attn: Marilyn Toft
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

February 19, 2013

To Toronto City Council:

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council urges you to support motion 18.5 as recommended by the Community Development and Recreation Committee on January 31, 2013. The City of Toronto has an opportunity, through its leadership and vision, to address a significant social crisis in our city. Undocumented residents and people with precarious status such as temporary foreign workers face barriers in accessing services.

For generations, Toronto has been a place where immigrants have settled and built futures for themselves. From refugee claimants seeking asylum from repressive regimes to migrants seeking a better future for their families, newcomers have built Canadian society. Their journey has included struggles to gain rights and respect at their workplaces and broader society. Those living without status or with precarious status are further isolated and marginalized when they are unable to access city programs and services. This undoubtedly also has a marginalizing effect on the next generation of residents and workers.

Everyone who lives in Toronto should be able to access public programs and services. The Labour Council calls upon City Council to ensure that access is reviewed and expanded in Toronto, and to request the provincial government to similarly review and expand provincially-funded services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Cartwright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Cartwright
President