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Greater Toronto CivicAction • Alliance

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Councillor Joe Mihevc
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite B35
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

March 24, 2014

Dear Councillor Mihevc,

Thank you for including CivicAction in the discussion about developing a Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy.

CivicAction shares your vision of a prosperous Toronto region and I would be happy to discuss ways that we can support the strategy's development.

In the report by Social Planning Toronto and Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto, "Toward a Poverty Elimination Strategy for the City of Toronto," a number of areas are outlined in which systemic changes could have a significant impact on poverty reduction. Two of these areas for action are employment and public transit – two areas in which CivicAction is actively engaged.

As you know, CivicAction has been working on building awareness about regional transportation through our Your32 campaign for the last year. The campaign calls on citizens and elected officials to pledge their support for new funding sources that are dedicated, efficient, transparent and accountable, regional, fair, and sustainable. We understand the positive impact improved transit would have on poverty reduction – allowing people to move across the city more easily, to get to school, work and community services.

To date, more than 50% of MPPs in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area have pledged their support for new ways to fund better transportation. We are continuing our work on transportation to ensure that elected officials know that now is the time for action and keep this issue top of mind during the provincial budget and through the municipal, and potential provincial, election period.

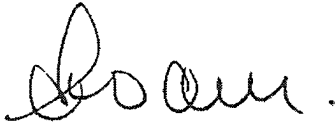
CivicAction is also working on a youth and private sector employment initiative with the provincial government. The work is focused on the tens of thousands of young people, ages 15 to 24, across the region that are not in employment, education or training. Many of these young people face multiple barriers to employment, including poverty.

We have convened more than 750 employers, youth, labour representatives, community agencies, municipal representatives, and academic institutions to tackle this issue and will be coming forward soon with recommendations for actions that private sector employers can take to reduce barriers and create opportunities for this group of young people. Our work on youth employment and regional transportation are components to consider as part of a holistic approach to reducing poverty in Toronto. As you continue to move the strategy forward there

may be opportunities to leverage this work on key activities. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss how CivicAction's work can support the strategy's development.

I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sevaun' followed by a period.

Sevaun Palvetzian
CEO, CivicAction