



**TORONTO  
FOUNDATION**

The Art of Wise Giving™



November 2, 2015

VIA EMAIL

**EX9.5.43**

Rahul K. Bhardwaj LL.B ICD.D  
President & CEO,  
Toronto Foundation

**CHAIR EMERITUS**

Martin Connell

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

John Barford  
Chair, Toronto Foundation  
President,  
Valleydene Corporation

Robert Bertram  
Corporate Director

S. Michael Brooks  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Real Property Association of Canada

Ian L. T. Clarke  
Chief Financial Officer,  
Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd.

Claire Duboc  
Managing Partner,  
CBT Management

Rick Goldsmith  
Partner, National Risk Management,  
Advisory Services  
KPMG Management Services LLP

Edward Greenspon  
Managing Editor,  
Bloomberg News

Sue Griggs  
Leadership Coach,  
The Coaching Project Inc.

Sandy Houston  
President & CEO,  
Metcalf Foundation

Richard Ivey  
Chairman,  
Ivest Properties Ltd.

Bill MacKinnon  
Corporate Director

Richard Peddie  
Consultant, Author, Speaker

André Perey  
Corporate Secretary, Toronto Foundation  
Partner,  
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh  
Community Volunteer

Lola Rasminsky  
Founding Director,  
Avenue Road Arts School

John L. Sherrington  
Vice-Chairman,  
Global Investment Banking, Scotiabank

Natalie Townsend  
Managing Partner,  
NorthRock Capital

Greg Wilkinson  
Principal,  
Earncliffe Strategy Group

Ms. Marilyn Toft  
Manager, City Council and By-laws  
City Clerk's Office, City of Toronto,  
100 Queen St. W., Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Re: Comments for City Council Meeting on November 3, 2015, 2015.EX.9.5, to be added to the agenda and circulated.**

Dear Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council,

Toronto Foundation congratulates the Executive Committee on the adoption of the *TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy* and encourages City Council Members to approve this *Poverty Reduction Strategy* as soon as possible. The Foundation supports the objectives of the *Poverty Reduction Strategy* towards building a more liveable city for all residents of Toronto, and in particular, transforming and alleviating the circumstances of those living in poverty.

The effective implementation of the *Poverty Reduction Strategy* will provide significant solutions to several issues highlighted in our Toronto's Vital Signs® Report – our annual snapshot of the quality of life in our city. The Report has 10 specific issue areas, yet we recognize that they are all interconnected and that a systems-based approach is necessary to develop the most impactful solutions. Over the last few years, our Report has shown, for example, that food security is influenced by poverty, precarious work, and the economy; and, youth unemployment is impacted by access to education, transit and new business directions. And while community based programs are important in addressing these challenges, the long-term solutions will be found in broad based, system-wide innovations requiring us to think and act like a network.

By adopting the *Poverty Reduction Strategy*, City Council will demonstrate leadership in committing to long-term systemic solutions to our city's complex problems, particularly the reduction of poverty in one of our country's richest cities.

Toronto Foundation supports the *Poverty Reduction Strategy* through grants from our Vital Toronto Fund and our network of Fundholders. We will continue to invest in high-impact community organizations and collaborative city building initiatives addressing Toronto's "Vital Signs". We look forward to working in collaboration with the City and other partners, to achieve our shared vision to tackle poverty as well as the poverty of opportunity.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Yours very truly,

Rahul K. Bhardwaj  
President & CEO

cc: Mr. John Barford, Chair, Toronto Foundation



33 Bloor Street East, Suite 1603, Toronto ON M4W 3H1  
T 416.921.2035 F 416.921.1026 E info@torontofoundation.ca  
[www.torontofoundation.ca](http://www.torontofoundation.ca)