



## TRANSMITTAL FROM CITY COUNCIL

### TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

<b>Date:</b>	July 20, 2015
<b>To:</b>	Economic Development Committee
<b>From:</b>	City Council
<b>Wards:</b>	All Wards

### City Council Decision

---

City Council on July 7, 8 and 9, 2015, adopted as amended, Item EX7.2, headed "TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy".

Among other things, City Council has forwarded TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to the Standing Committees and the Budget Committee for additional consideration of service level implications for the 2016 Capital and Operating Budget and for subsequent years' budgets.

### Summary

---

Recognized internationally as a vibrant and prosperous city of opportunity, Toronto is consistently ranked as a global leader across a range of indicators from competitiveness to livability. However, not all residents enjoy these benefits. Toronto is also the national capital of working poverty, and the provincial capital of income inequality. Despite a number of City strategies, and a range of programs and services, poverty persists and is worsening for many Toronto residents. This trend threatens the long-term success of the city.

In April 2014, City Council unanimously directed the City Manager to develop a Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy through broad public consultation. Between November 2014 and April 2015, staff and community partners co-led a full-day multi-sector stakeholder dialogue, 10 Days of Dialogue, 101 Community Conversations, and three roundtable discussions with sector experts, which were complemented with two online

questionnaires. Torontonians sent one clear message: the conventional pathway to prosperity is broken. Education increasingly does not lead to good jobs, the growing number of precarious jobs do not guarantee stable lives, social services need to adapt to meet people's needs, and eroded income supports do not cover basic necessities.

This report provides an overview of poverty in Toronto, describes the development of the strategy, and outlines a vision, objectives, recommendations and actions. There are limits to how much the City and its local partners can do to address poverty. Nevertheless, this strategy is an unprecedented opportunity to find new ways to do more to alleviate, reduce, and begin to eradicate poverty in Toronto. With this aim, TO Prosperity sets out three complementary objectives: (1) Address Immediate Needs, (2) Create Pathways to Prosperity, and (3) Drive Systemic Change. Actions focus on six areas prioritized by residents in the public consultations: Housing Stability, Access to Services, Food Access, Transportation, Quality Jobs and Living Wages, and Institutional Change.

## Executive Committee

EX7.2		Amended		Ward:All
-------	--	---------	--	----------

### TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

#### City Council Decision

City Council on July 7, 8 and 9, 2015, adopted the following:

1. City Council endorse as a moral imperative the goal of preventing and reducing poverty and ensuring that we allocate the resources to achieve these goals.
2. City Council adopt the vision and objectives for TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.
3. City Council adopt in principle the interim strategy, TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.
4. City Council request the City Manager to:
  - a. consult with communities most affected by poverty and key partners in community agencies, business and labour, and other institutions on TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.
  - b. refine the Actions in the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy with progress measures, action leads, timeframes and financial implications; and
  - c. report back to City Council, through the Executive Committee, with a finalized Poverty Reduction Strategy, including implementation details, in the Fall of 2015.
5. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to the Board of Health, Toronto Public Library Board, Toronto Transit Commission Board and Toronto Police Services Board, with the request that they consider service implications and roles in driving systemic change at the City to reduce poverty and to report to the City Manager on these issues in time for inclusion into the final Poverty Reduction Strategy in Fall 2015.
6. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in

Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to the Standing Committees and the Budget Committee for additional consideration of service level implications for the 2016 Capital and Operating Budget and for subsequent years' budgets.

7. City Council request the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report to the Economic Development Committee, in September 2015, together with the report previously requested in Item ED30.6 on re-designing the vacant commercial and industrial tax relief program to stimulate economic growth, on the legislative and financial implications of eliminating vacancy tax rebates and any required amendments to the Assessment Act as a result.
8. City Council direct the City Manager to forward the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services; the Ministry of Community and Social Services; the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure; the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs; the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities; Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Employment and Social Development Canada; and the Privy Council Office for consideration on program and funding alignments.
9. City Council request the City Manager to explore partnership opportunities with the private sector related to poverty reduction and report back Community Development and Recreation Committee alongside the final Poverty Reduction Strategy in Fall 2015.
10. City Council request the City Manager to report with an overview of what the City, its divisions and corporations are currently doing to combat poverty including budget impacts; such review to be reported to the Community Development and Recreation Committee alongside the final Poverty Reduction Strategy.
11. City Council request the Medical Officer of Health, through the Board of Health, to report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on opportunities and costs for providing eye examinations for school age children in Strong and Emerging neighbourhoods; such report to also include current optometry programs operated by the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and any opportunities for expansion.

---

## **Committee Recommendations**

The Executive Committee recommends that:

1. City Council endorse as a moral imperative the goal of preventing and reducing poverty and ensuring that we allocate the resources to achieve these goals.
2. City Council adopt the vision and objectives for TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.
3. City Council adopt in principle the interim strategy, TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.

4. City Council request the City Manager to:

- a. consult with communities most affected by poverty and key partners in community agencies, business and labour, and other institutions on TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer.
- b. refine the Actions in the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy with progress measures, action leads, timeframes and financial implications; and
- c. report back to City Council, through the Executive Committee, with a finalized Poverty Reduction Strategy, including implementation details, in the Fall of 2015.

5. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to the Board of Health, Toronto Public Library Board, TTC Board and Toronto Police Services Board, with the request that they consider service implications and roles in driving systemic change at the City to reduce poverty and to report to the City Manager on these issues in time for inclusion into the final Poverty Reduction Strategy in Fall 2015.

6. City Council forward TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy, as outlined in Attachment A to the report (June 16, 2015) from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to the Standing Committees and the Budget Committee for additional consideration of service level implications for the 2016 Capital and Operating Budget and for subsequent years' budgets.

7. City Council direct the City Manager to forward the Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services; the Ministry of Community and Social Services; the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure; the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs; the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities; Citizenship and Immigration Canada; Employment and Social Development Canada; and the Privy Council Office for consideration on program and funding alignments.

### **Committee Decision Advice and Other Information**

Councillor Pam McConnell and the Director, Social Policy, Analysis and Research, Social Development, Finance and Administration gave a presentation on TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy.

### **Origin**

(June 16, 2015) Report from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager, Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager, Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

### **Summary**

Recognized internationally as a vibrant and prosperous city of opportunity, Toronto is consistently ranked as a global leader across a range of indicators from competitiveness to livability. However, not all residents enjoy these benefits. Toronto is also the national capital of working poverty, and the provincial capital of income inequality. Despite a number of City

strategies, and a range of programs and services, poverty persists and is worsening for many Toronto residents. This trend threatens the long-term success of the city.

In April 2014, City Council unanimously directed the City Manager to develop a Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy through broad public consultation. Between November 2014 and April 2015, staff and community partners co-led a full-day multi-sector stakeholder dialogue, 10 Days of Dialogue, 101 Community Conversations, and three roundtable discussions with sector experts, which were complemented with two online questionnaires. Torontonians sent one clear message: the conventional pathway to prosperity is broken. Education increasingly does not lead to good jobs, the growing number of precarious jobs do not guarantee stable lives, social services need to adapt to meet people's needs, and eroded income supports do not cover basic necessities.

This report provides an overview of poverty in Toronto, describes the development of the strategy, and outlines a vision, objectives, recommendations and actions. There are limits to how much the City and its local partners can do to address poverty. Nevertheless, this strategy is an unprecedented opportunity to find new ways to do more to alleviate, reduce, and begin to eradicate poverty in Toronto. With this aim, TO Prosperity sets out three complementary objectives: (1) Address Immediate Needs, (2) Create Pathways to Prosperity, and (3) Drive Systemic Change. Actions focus on six areas prioritized by residents in the public consultations: Housing Stability, Access to Services, Food Access, Transportation, Quality Jobs and Living Wages, and Institutional Change.

### **Background Information (Committee)**

(June 16, 2015) Report and Attachment B from the Acting City Manager, the Deputy City Manager Cluster A, the Acting Deputy City Manager Cluster B and the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer on TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-81607.pdf>)  
Attachment A - TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-81653.pdf>)  
(June 30, 2015) Presentation on TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-81893.pdf>)

### **Communications (Committee)**

(June 17, 2015) E-mail from Alfred Medeiros (EX.Main.EX7.2.1)  
(June 19, 2015) E-mail from Peggy Needham (EX.Main.EX7.2.2)  
(June 22, 2015) E-mail from Janet Elliott (EX.Main.EX7.2.3)  
(June 22, 2015) E-mail from Joanne Cantrill (EX.Main.EX7.2.4)  
(June 23, 2015) Letter from Members of the City of Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy Advisory Group (EX.Supp.EX7.2.5) (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/comm/communicationfile-53741.pdf>)  
(June 25, 2015) E-mail from Maleda Mulu (EX.Supp.EX7.2.6)  
(June 25, 2015) E-mail from Katie Dorman (EX.Supp.EX7.2.7)  
(June 25, 2015) E-mail from Najib Safieddine (EX.Supp.EX7.2.8)  
(June 26, 2015) E-mail from Kelly Anne Cox (EX.Supp.EX7.2.9)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Elis Ziegler, Manager, Toronto Drop In Network (EX.Supp.EX7.2.10) (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/comm/communicationfile-53771.pdf>)  
(June 26, 2015) E-mail from Devi Joy Krieger (EX.Supp.EX7.2.11)  
(June 27, 2015) E-mail from Kevin Vuong (EX.Supp.EX7.2.12)  
(June 27, 2015) E-mail from Murray Lumley (EX.Supp.EX7.2.13)  
(June 28, 2015) E-mail from Valerie Hyman (EX.Supp.EX7.2.14)  
(June 26, 2015) Letter from Michael Rosenberg (EX.Supp.EX7.2.15)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Zuzana Betkova (EX.Supp.EX7.2.16)

- (June 29, 2015) E-mail from Emily Paradis (EX.Supp.EX7.2.17)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Kathy Salisbury (EX.Supp.EX7.2.18)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Paul Clifford (EX.Supp.EX7.2.19)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Linda Chebichii Mackay (EX.Supp.EX7.2.20)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Brenda Thompson (EX.Supp.EX7.2.21)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Rebecca Phinnemore (EX.Supp.EX7.2.22)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Lillian Mendelsohn (EX.Supp.EX7.2.23)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Heather McPherson (EX.Supp.EX7.2.24)  
(June 29, 2015) Letter from Rachel Gray, Chair, Toronto Food Policy Council (EX.Supp.EX7.2.25)  
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/comm/communicationfile-53841.pdf>)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Rachel Gray, The Stop, Community Food Centre (EX.Supp.EX7.2.26)  
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/comm/communicationfile-53842.pdf>)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Eji Ehirim (EX.Supp.EX7.2.27)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Ryan Friedman (EX.Supp.EX7.2.28)  
(June 29, 2015) Submission from Leila Sarangi, Manager, Community Programs, Women's Habitat of Etobicoke (EX.Supp.EX7.2.29)  
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/comm/communicationfile-53845.pdf>)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Joan Anderson, Project Manager, Toronto HIV/AIDS Network (EX.Supp.EX7.2.30)  
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/comm/communicationfile-53847.pdf>)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Vivian Harrower (EX.Supp.EX7.2.31)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Joel Klassen (EX.Supp.EX7.2.32)  
(June 30, 2015) Letter from Tim Rourke (EX.New.EX7.2.33)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from Sherry Sui, Regent Park Community Food Centre (EX.New.EX7.2.34)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Tim Maguire (EX.New.EX7.2.35)  
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/comm/communicationfile-53835.pdf>)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Justine Barone (EX.New.EX7.2.36)  
(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/comm/communicationfile-53861.pdf>)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Andrea Perry (EX.New.EX7.2.37)  
(June 29, 2015) E-mail from David Meyers (EX.New.EX7.2.38)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Brigitte Martin (EX.New.EX7.2.39)  
(June 30, 2015) Letter from Mary Wright (EX.New.EX7.2.40)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Aisha Khaja (EX.New.EX7.2.41)  
(June 30, 2015) Letter from Michael Kerr (EX.New.EX7.2.42)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Paul Codd (EX.New.EX7.2.43)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Pathmaleela Jekeswaran (EX.New.EX7.2.44)  
(June 30, 2015) E-mail from Sharon Yetman (EX.New.EX7.2.45)

## **Communications (City Council)**

- (July 6, 2015) E-mail from Sharon Yetman (CC.Supp.EX7.2.46)

## **Speakers**

Tim Rourke  
Maggie Helwig  
Jeff Richardson  
Joe Abbey-Colborne, Faith in the City  
Anela Jadunandan, Ontario Association of Islamic Schools  
Paul Codd  
Michael Rosenberg  
Arttanheru Tseura, Bread and Bricks Social Justice Group  
David Bishop, Bread and Bricks Social Justice

Ana Oliveira  
Sharon McPherson  
Tim Maguire, President, CUPE, Local 79  
Pedro Barata, Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs, United Way Toronto  
John Cartwright, Toronto and York Region Labour Council  
Jack Panozzo, Catholic Charities  
Mary Wright, Alliance for a Poverty Free Toronto (APT)  
Pearl Chrimes  
Elis Ziegler, Toronto Drop In Network  
Sharon Simpson, Labour Community Services  
Eva Mukerjee, Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA)  
Suganthine Sivakumar, Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA)  
Joel Wolch  
Avvy Yao-yao Go, Colour of Poverty/Colour of Change  
Michael Kerr, Coordinator, Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change  
Herman Rosenfeld  
Rob Howarth, Commitment to Community  
Daniela Mergarten  
Valerie Hyman, Social Justice Committee, Synagogue Darchei Noam  
Andrea Budgey, Reverend, Chair, Poverty Reduction Subcommittee, Anglican Diocese of Toronto  
Cynthia Wilkey, West Don Lands Committee  
Jessica Bell, TTC Riders  
Susan Gapka  
Ephraim Hildebrand  
Bee Lee  
Anna Kim, Agincourt Community Services Association  
Debbie Hall, Women's Habitat of Etobicoke  
Julie Penasse  
Lucy Barker  
Derek George  
Janice Bellmore and Joel Klassen  
Councillor Pam McConnell  
Councillor Shelley Carroll  
Councillor Joe Mihevc