



**A Project of the Labour Council
in Partnership with the United Way**

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Attention
Executive Committee, City of Toronto
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Labour Community Services (LCS) is a project of the Toronto & York Region Labour Council in partnership with United Way Toronto & York Region. The work we do, jointly with labour and community groups, causes us to be well situated in recognizing the impact of poverty on the city and its residents.

We want to start by congratulating the City of Toronto for taking a leadership role in addressing poverty - the quick implementation of the elimination of transit fare for children has been beneficial to many families across the city.

The proposed Poverty Reduction Strategy augments work that the city is currently doing in the areas of housing, service access, transit, food and quality jobs. This approach is well received as it seeks to build on the city's strengths. The strategy recognizes that there is good work being done and offers opportunities to elevate that work. We applaud the broad base approach that has been taken by the city to make sure that Toronto remains a liveable city in which all its residents can strive.

As a United Way partner we see the impact of targeted activities aimed at addressing poverty through the provision of services delivered by United Way member agencies. As a project of the Labour Council we work cohesively with organized labour to improve labour market prosperity for working people. To this end we have been intensely involved with promoting community benefits agreements as a change instrument that will allow residents to derive benefits from the spending of their tax dollars.

By undertaking an anti-poverty initiative the city has signaled its commitment to service delivery and its intent to ensure that residents benefit from good governance and stewardship of the city. We look forward with great anticipation to the adoption of the interim Poverty Reduction Strategy and the development of an implementable action plan that will make serious inroads in addressing poverty in our city.

I look forward to continued engagement by the city of its residents on making Toronto a poverty free city.

Respectfully

Faduma Awow Mohamed

Faduma Mohamed
Executive Director
Labour Community Services