



June 21, 2016

City Hall, 2nd floor
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

To: Gary Crawford, Budget Chief, and Members of Budget Committee

The role of the City of Toronto is to be a leader to civil society, and it provides this leadership by prioritizing its spending towards filling the biggest societal gaps, by funding programs that equalize opportunity and by curating an economic environment conducive to shared prosperity. There are many conflicting priorities and as Council decides on which priorities are paramount it is important to reflect on how the City provides for the residents of Toronto.

This year, we have witnessed gun violence higher than the summer of the gun, our residents are working with incredible precarity, and increasingly our youth are falling through the cracks – all at a time of the highest income equality Torontonians have ever witnessed. How is the city responding to the challenges of today?

The budget cannot pull the carpet underneath the most vulnerable, it needs to provide leadership. The proposed options for service cuts are bad public policy and will only deteriorate the safeguards we as a City have created.

The Toronto and York Region Labour Council is opposed to the proposed budget reductions in Recommendation 3 of the 2017 Budget Process: Budget Directions and Schedules. We ask members of the Budget Committee to direct staff and agencies to provide budgets that improve services, and are aspirational in their desire for a safer, world class Toronto.

Sincerely ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Cartwright'.

John Cartwright
President

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