



May 19, 2016

**His Worship John Tory, Mayor of Toronto
and Members of the Executive Committee**
100 Queen Street West
City Hall, Second Floor

Re: Toronto's Long Term Financial Report

Dear Mr Tory and Members of the Executive Committee:

I am writing regarding the implications of Toronto's new long term fiscal plan on the communities that we work in and the clients that we serve. In particular, I would like to stress the importance of considering additional revenue generating tools rather than further cutting back on social services.

North York Harvest Food Bank supports over 10,000 people struggling with an insecure food supply across northern Toronto; providing them with the sustenance to go to work, to school and to grow (one third of our clients are children). We receive very little funding from government sources – over 90% of our revenues are from private individuals and organizations -- but decisions made by the city greatly impact our client base, particularly the most vulnerable.

While food banks were originally conceived as an emergency solution to a temporary economic downturn, our work has long since become an essential and ongoing component of thousands of working people's household budgets; after paying for rent and transit they simply have nothing left for nutritious food.

The inner suburbs of Toronto have seen a 45% increase in food bank usage since the recession of 2008. At present, we see no reversal of this trend and are already operating at capacity. If services are cut and affordable housing and transit is not made available, we can only conclude that many more people will be forced to access food from our 76 programs.

Please consider alternative, long term revenue streams, rather than cuts to key social services to help make this city livable for all of its citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Noble', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan Noble
Executive Director
North York Harvest Food Bank