



**United Way**  
**Toronto & York Region**

Daniele Zanotti  
President and Chief Executive Officer

March 19, 2018

Mayor John Tory, Chair, and Respected Members  
Executive Committee

Via email to [exc@toronto.ca](mailto:exc@toronto.ca)

Re: EX32.1 – City of Toronto Long-Term Financial Plan

I would like to start by thanking the staff at the City of Toronto, under the leadership of outgoing City Manager Peter Wallace, for highlighting in this report the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for Toronto. As the largest funder of community and social services outside of government, United Way Toronto and York Region works with our staff, volunteers, donors, agencies and partners in labour and government to not only meet the urgent and growing need in underserved communities, but to implement long term investments strategies that are driven towards success in fighting local poverty. And the City of Toronto is a key ally in that mission.

United Way and its agencies collaborate with several City divisions to help sustain adequate service levels across all neighbourhoods, while at the same time identify opportunities to work together on research, public policy and systemic solutions related to poverty reduction and improving access to the services and supports residents need. For example, we have aligned our respective youth employment strategies \_ Career Navigator™ and PAYE \_ to better connect young people with training and employers; and developed synergies in our “Strong Neighbourhoods” strategies. Those collaborative efforts over the years have helped make our city more livable and vibrant. However, a real challenge lies ahead: making Toronto a city of opportunity for everyone.

That evidence is laid out in our recent research titled *The Opportunity Equation*. The reports show that growing concentration of poverty, declining job quality and rising income inequality, are creating an uneven playing field and compromising our fundamental principles of fairness, belonging and opportunities for success.

... /2

---

**Head Office:**

26 Wellington Street E 12th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5E 1S2  
Tel 416 777 2001 Fax 416 777 0962  
TTY 1 866 620 2993

**York Region Office:**

80F Centurian Drive Suite 200  
Markham, ON L3R 8C1  
Tel 905 474 9974 Fax 905 474 0051

---

[unitedwaytyr.com](http://unitedwaytyr.com)

Therefore, now is the time for bold action that builds on the momentum we have achieved and charts a course that enables residents in every neighbourhood across the region to have the opportunity to succeed.

At United Way, we have put that mission front and centre through our Uprising of Care: to raise and invest more funds locally and support more people and programs than ever before in the fight against poverty. We need the City to continue to be a strong partner.

The leadership of the Executive Committee is critical for the kind of strong, supportive communities we want to build across Toronto . We ask members of the Executive Committee to address the challenges ahead as laid out in the Long-Term Financial Plan by committing to invest in programs, services and strategies that help ensure a future of opportunity is available to everyone.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and vertical strokes, appearing to read 'Daniele Zanotti'.

Daniele Zanotti