

Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy Update to Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

November 20, 2020

Poverty Reduction Strategy Office

Social Development, Finance and Administration Division



MANY TORONTONIANS LIVE IN **POVERTY**

25% of children
(14 and under)
in Toronto



374,530 Torontonians



SOME TORONTONIANS ARE **MORE LIKELY THAN OTHERS** TO LIVE IN POVERTY



Response to Council Motions

EX14.4

Request the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services, to engage persons with disabilities while developing implementation plans for the 2019-2022 Poverty Reduction Strategy Action Plan activities to ensure that initiatives appropriately consider the specific experiences and barriers that persons with disabilities face, particularly within the context of the City's COVID 19 recovery and rebuild efforts, and to report back to the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee in the fourth quarter of 2020 with the request that any recommendations arising from such consultations be forwarded to the 2021 Budget process.

EX15.4

City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, and the Executive Director, Housing Secretariat to bring forward presentations on how the City is specifically supporting vulnerable people with disabilities in Toronto during and beyond COVID-19, to the November 16, 2020 meeting of the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee.

COVID-19 Equity Impacts

- Increased social isolation
- Reduced access to critical supplies and resources
- Unsuitable housing situations and lack of caregiver supports
- Significant negative economic impacts

Statistics Canada Findings (National)

- During the spring and summer, Statistics Canada ran a series of crowdsourced surveys to understand how Canadians were coping with COVID-19.
- Over one-third of survey respondents with long-term conditions or disabilities report experiencing a temporary or permanent job loss or reduced hours during the pandemic
- Almost half of survey respondents have relied exclusively on non-employment income since March
- The ability to meet food and grocery needs and needs for personal protective equipment are the most commonly reported impacts of the pandemic for survey respondents

Examples of COVID-19 Pandemic Response

- Emergency Food Response
 - Over 26,000 food hampers to vulnerable Torontonians who were unable to get groceries or access food supports
- Mental Health Supports
 - Over 5,600 calls for referrals to mental health supports have been made, with over 59,000 mental health contact sessions
- Community Sector Support
 - Over 400 community agencies engaged as part of Community Coordination Plan
- Donations
 - \$250k directed to agencies specifically serving people with disabilities

Recovery and Rebuild Engagement Themes

- Lack of consultation and priority for people with disabilities
- Income (supports) and funding
- Daily living needs (housing, food, clothing)
- Housing
- Health and mental health
- Lack of testing and personal protective equipment

PRS Recovery and Rebuild Priorities

- Meaningfully make equity, inclusion and poverty reduction core business across all service areas at the City
- Invest in resilient community infrastructure
- Prioritize systems instead of one-off solutions
- Ensure sustainable investments in critical services that maintain social connection, including transit/mobility, community and recreational programs, and digital connectivity

2019-2022 PRS Action Plan

Continuous Engagement Activities

- 16.2.1. Engage the For Public Benefit Sector, Community and Grassroots groups in the design of and participation in a series of Poverty Reduction Strategy forums
- 16.2.2. Develop communication tools for Divisions and Agencies to facilitate resident-led consultations that address PRS-related policies and programs
- 16.2.3. Develop a 'GET TO KNOW TO' campaign to engage and educate residents on City services, policies, programs and opportunities
- 16.2.4. Establish a forum to connect Divisions and Agencies involved in poverty reduction with residents to share their lived experience
- 16.2.5. Establish a process to coordinate City-led consultations that advance Poverty Reduction Strategy actions

Engaging with People with Disabilities

- Embed a disability lens into all of the continuous engagement activities
- Develop engagement strategies that maximize inclusion of people with disabilities in a safe way
- Present regular Poverty Reduction Strategy update reports to Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee, in addition to Aboriginal Affairs Committee and Executive Committee



Thank You

For more information, or if you have any further questions, feel free to contact us at :

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www.toronto.ca/povertyreduction