

# HL24.1a Attachment 1

## Attachment 1 – Status of Intergovernmental Requests related to the COVID-19 Equity Action Plan

The following intergovernmental requests and activities have been initiated by City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health, in support of actions in the City’s *COVID-19 Equity Action Plan*.

AREA	ACTION	COUNCIL-ADOPTED INTERGOVERNMENTAL REQUESTS	FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL RESPONSE/CURRENT STATUS
<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH ACCESS</b>	<b>Expand COVID-19 Testing and Flu Shot Clinics in Communities most Impacted by COVID-19</b>	<p>The City has requested the Federal and Provincial governments to increase supports for populations disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to increase community outreach in high transmission neighbourhoods to support access to COVID-19 testing,</li> <li>• to promote voluntary self-isolation facilities, and</li> <li>• to increase access to health and social services.</li> </ul> <p>City Council has also requested the federal government expedite, in collaboration with the Province of Ontario and local public health units, the rapid implementation of new testing technologies, such as at-home and saliva-based tests, for the proactive surveillance of COVID-19.</p>	<p>The Federal Government has agreed to parts of the City's request, by approving, procuring and deploying new testing methods to provinces/territories which in turn have supported local efforts.</p> <p>The Province has rolled out new testing methods including throat, nasal swabbing and saliva collection in addition to nasopharyngeal swabs, and is continuing to review innovative technologies such as rapid and point of care tests.</p> <p>The Province also initiated voluntary targeted COVID-19 testing in schools for asymptomatic students and staff in regions of the province that currently have a high number of active COVID-19 cases.</p> <p>The City is working closely with Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) and healthcare system organizations to make City facilities available as walk-in, low-barrier COVID-19 testing sites in local communities, based in part on neighbourhoods with high COVID-19 case counts and low testing rates.</p> <p>Staff-level discussions with the Province regarding targeted supports for high priority communities are ongoing.</p>

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<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH ACCESS</b>	<b>Operate Canada’s First Covid-19 Voluntary Isolation Centre</b>	City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health requested funding from Government of Canada to operate Canada’s first COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation Centre.	<p>The Federal Government has fulfilled this request by providing \$13.9 Million for the full operation of a COVID-19 Voluntary Isolation Centre, at the request of the City of Toronto and Toronto Public Health. The Centre is expected to be in operation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Toronto Public Health has shared advice with multiple other municipalities and jurisdictions on operation of the isolation centre. The Federal government has committed additional funding for isolation centres across the country, including one in Peel Region.</p> <p>The Federal Government provides other isolation and recovery facilities, including for those arriving into Canada who do not have a quarantine plan.</p>
<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH ACCESS</b>	<b>Improve Low-Barrier Access to Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention.</b>	<p>Since 2017, the City requested that federal and provincial governments to respond to the opioid crisis.</p> <p>The City has also requested that the Province ensure that appropriate primary health care, harm reduction, overdose prevention, and mental health services are available to support individuals who are homeless; provide ongoing and sustainable funding for mental health case management; and proactive, regular, and accessible mobile COVID-19 testing in shelter and respite settings.</p> <p>Note: Further, in November 2020, Board of Health called on the federal and provincial governments to</p>	<p>The Federal Government has partially addressed this request. In its Fall Economic Statement they committed an additional \$66 million over two years, starting in 2020-21 to address the opioid crisis. Funding will support community-based organizations responding to substance use issues, including to help them provide frontline services.</p> <p>On October 7, the Province committed to expanding access for critical mental health and addictions supports during COVID-19, including support for the following targeted community and residential addictions services in Ontario: <a href="https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58717/ontario-building-a-modern-connected-and-comprehensive-mental-health-and-additions-system">https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/58717/ontario-building-a-modern-connected-and-comprehensive-mental-health-and-additions-system</a></p>

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		<p>provide support (including funding and regulatory changes, where appropriate) to increase low-barrier harm reduction and overdose prevention services, as well as other services that are essential to people at high risk of overdose (such as treatment, grief and trauma supports, etc.). These calls include requests for funding to immediately scale-up harm reduction and other essential services; provide longer term support and expand safe supply program options; support a Urgent Public Health Needs Site program in Ontario; and reinstate previous funding to overdose prevention sites, and pilot virtual and peer-witnessing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$4 Million for nurse practitioners for services to improve the medical management of clients in residential withdrawal management facilities; \$8 Million for addictions day and evening care to increase access to intensive non-residential addictions, and substance use treatment services for youth and adults.</li> <li>• \$3.5 Million for in-home/mobile withdrawal management services to increase access to community withdrawal management services.</li> <li>• Over \$900,000 for an additional four inpatient beds at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) to support capacity pressures at CAMH.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SHELTER AND HOUSING</b></p>	<p><b>Implement the Housing and Homelessness Recovery Response Plan to Create Additional Permanent Housing Opportunities.</b></p>	<p>City Council has requested the federal and provincial governments to provide urgent capital and operating funding to create 3,000 affordable rental and supportive housing units in 24 months, including the development of new modular housing, acquisitions, renovations and "shovel ready" projects, and additional new portable (and flexible) Canada-Ontario Housing Benefits.</p>	<p>The Federal Government has partially met this request. They have committed \$203 million to the City under the Rapid Housing Initiative, which will build at a minimum 417 units of affordable housing.  <a href="http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.MM25.32">http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.MM25.32</a></p> <p>Additional capital funding is required to meet the 3,000 unit target.</p> <p>City Council has also requested the Province of Ontario to provide ongoing operating funding, including funding for housing benefits and mental health and addiction services, to ensure the units created under the Rapid Housing Initiative (and other units proposed under the 24-month plan) results in new supportive housing opportunities for vulnerable and</p>

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			marginalized individuals, including people experiencing homelessness.
<b>INCOME SUPPORT</b>	<b>Advocate for Emergency Benefits and Eviction Prevention</b>	<p>The City has requested the Province re-instate the moratorium on eviction of tenants.</p> <p>The City has requested the Federal and Provincial governments to accelerate distribution, expand the reach, and make completely accessible and transparent all financial supports directed toward people, including populations that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 such as women, racialized individuals, low-income individuals, and those living with disabilities; and to provide adequate paid sick days and income supports for those who need to isolate but cannot afford to do so and for workers and businesses affected by public health restrictions.</p>	<p>The Federal and Provincial Governments have not yet responded to these requests from November 2020.</p> <p>An update on the total amount of financial supports provided to individuals and businesses was provided by the Federal Government in its Fall Economic Statement.  <a href="https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/chap2-en.html#wb-cont">https://www.budget.gc.ca/fes-eea/2020/report-rapport/chap2-en.html#wb-cont</a></p>
<b>SUPPORT FOR SENIORS</b>	<b>Prevent and Manage Outbreaks and Provide Highest Quality Care to Seniors living in City-Operated Long-Term Care Homes.</b>	<p>The City submitted twelve recommendations to the Independent Commission on COVID-19 and Long Term Care in Ontario, with a focus on safety and the necessary investments to ensure resiliency in the sector, improve quality of care and life for residents, enhance trust and accountability and improve working conditions.</p> <p>The City has requested the federal government create a national long-term care strategy, and that federal and provincial governments provide supports including for residents and staff.</p>	<p>The Federal Government in its Speech from the Throne has committed to work with the provinces and territories to set new, national standards for long-term care.</p> <p>The Independent Commission on COVID-19 and Long-Term Care in Ontario is expected to release its final report in April 2021.</p> <p>The Province has committed to improving quality of care by increasing average daily direct care to four hours a day per resident by 2024-25. Four hours of care was one of the City's recommendations to the Commission.</p> <p>The Province has also committed to educating and recruiting</p>

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		<p>The City has previously requested enhanced provincial supports for Infection Prevention and Control in long-term care homes.</p> <p><a href="http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX19.2">http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EX19.2</a></p>	<p>staff to support achievement of this target, including creation of a new "Ontario Workforce Reserve for Senior Support" program to recruit, train, and deploy individuals as Resident Support Aides (RSA) to work at homes during the COVID-19 pandemic, to be deployed in areas most in need such as Ottawa, Peel and Toronto.</p> <p>The Province has outlined a \$100 million long-term care component under the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream to build or renovate health and safety related projects in long-term care.</p> <p>The Government of Canada's Fall Economic Statement commits additional investments to long-term care including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1 billion over two years to create a new Safe Long-Term Care Fund, distributed to provinces/territories.</li> <li>• \$6.4 million over two years, starting in 2020-21, to the Canadian Foundation for Health Improvement to expand its LTC+ Initiative.</li> <li>• The Government is also committing \$1 million to engage with third parties to help identify resources to conduct readiness assessments in long-term care facilities and facilitate training on infection prevention and control.</li> <li>• \$2.4 million over three years to expand Health Canada's capacity to support these new initiatives and undertake policy work related to commitments on long-term care made in the Speech from the Throne.</li> <li>• To support personal support workers, homecare workers and essential workers in senior care, the Government will work with labour and healthcare unions, among others, to</li> </ul>

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			<p>seek solutions to improve retention, recruitment and retirement savings options for low- and modest-income workers, particularly those without existing workplace pension coverage.</p>
<b>DIGITAL ACCESS</b>	<b>Increase Access to Affordable Internet and Devices to keep People Connected during the Pandemic.</b>	<p>City staff have identified this as an emerging intergovernmental priority.</p>	<p>Recent Federal and Provincial investments have been targeted to rural and northern communities.</p> <p>The City is leading discussions with other large cities on digital government/ broadband, recognizing a common interest in improving access and affordability for vulnerable communities in urban areas.</p>
<b>MENTAL HEALTH AND FAMILY SAFETY</b>	<p><b>Support Torontonians experiencing Stress, Anxiety and Isolation during the Pandemic.</b></p> <p><b>Respond to the Heightened Risk of Family Violence.</b></p>	<p>The City has requested the provincial government to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the pandemic on mental health and well-being to inform the need for additional supports or programs required to mitigate associated harms.</p>	<p>The Government of Canada’s Fall Economic Statement committed an additional \$93 million in 2020-21 for mental health, which is comprised of \$50 million for distress centres and \$43 million to provide further support for the Wellness Together Canada portal.</p> <p>The Province is developing a health and safety refresher for students for their first day of class in January 2021 which, in addition to a focus on COVID-19 safety protocols, will also discuss the importance of mental health and tips to support mental health and wellness.</p>
<b>CHILDREN’S SERVICES</b>	<b>Deliver Safe High Quality Child Care during the Pandemic with Additional</b>	<p>The City successfully requested approval to plan and deliver emergency child care in the City of Toronto.</p> <p>The City has advocated for additional funding for sector stabilization and safe restart of child care and</p>	<p>The Province fully funded City-operated Emergency Child Care Centres for essential workers (March-June); 394 children served from 274 families.</p> <p>The Federal Government provided \$47.5 million through the</p>

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	<p><b>Supports for Child Care Operators in Communities most Impacted by COVID-19.</b></p>	<p>early years programs due to the impacts of COVID-19 and requested continued investments from provincial and federal governments to increase capacity, improve affordability and support a thriving workforce.</p>	<p>Province of Ontario for child care re-opening.</p> <p>The Federal Speech from the Throne committed to making a "significant, long-term, sustained investment to create a Canada-wide early learning and childcare system", and to build on previous investments, learn from the model that already exists in Quebec, and work with all provinces and territories.</p> <p>The Government of Canada's Fall Economic Statement committed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$20 million over 5 years, starting in 2021-22, with \$4.3 million per year ongoing for a Federal Secretariat on Early Learning and Child Care.</li> <li>• \$70 million over 5 years, starting in 2021-22, and \$15 million ongoing to sustain the existing federal Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat, and to help build Indigenous governance capacity and support Indigenous participation in the development of a Canada-wide system.</li> <li>• make existing funding for provinces, territories and Indigenous communities permanent starting in 2028-29. Funding will be permanent at 2027-28 levels by providing \$870 million per year and ongoing. Of this amount, \$210 million would support Indigenous early learning and child care programming.</li> <li>• \$420 million in 2021-22 for provinces and territories to support attraction and retention of Early Childhood Educators, such as through grants and bursaries for students studying early childhood education.</li> </ul>

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	<p><b>Make child care policies flexible for families affected by COVID-19.</b></p>	<p>In response to the Ministry of Education's five year review of the Child Care and Early Years Act, the City has also recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved access by reducing structural barriers; making equity and inclusion a priority; advancing the availability of culturally responsive programs for Black and Indigenous children and families;</li> <li>• controlling fees which are the main barrier to access for many families; and</li> <li>• raising fee income testing thresholds and indexing them to inflation.</li> </ul>	<p>In October 2020, the Province released a report on <a href="#">Strengthening Early Years and Child Care in Ontario</a> which included an overview of what the Province heard during its Child Care and Early Years Act consultation and outlined six action areas with commitments to improve the child care and early years system, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support quality in child care and early years settings.</li> <li>• Create flexible options for families and providers.</li> <li>• Update staffing qualifications to support workforce retention</li> <li>• Clarify requirements for inclusion of children with special needs.</li> <li>• Support Indigenous-led and culturally responsive programming.</li> <li>• Reduce administrative burden and address issues and gaps.</li> </ul>