

Mayor John Tory  
City Hall, 2nd Floor  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

*EX22.1 COVID-19 Recovery and Rebuild Update*

Dear Mayor Tory and Toronto City Council,

For over 30 years, the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) has advocated on behalf of all Torontonians for a green, healthy and equitable city. I am writing in response to the eighth COVID-19 Response and Recovery Update from the City Manager.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work by City staff and the progress that has been achieved to date. We also want to acknowledge that the continued work to 'build back better' is happening in the context of the third wave of COVID-19, which continues to disproportionately impact Indigenous people and equity-seeking communities in our city and exacerbate existing inequities.

The City of Toronto must be accountable to the thousands of residents and civil society organizations that contributed to the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild (TORR) process. A critical part of public accountability is ensuring that Recovery & Rebuild updates are accessible and public-friendly, so that residents can understand the progress that has been made and commitments that are ongoing or delayed. We request that the process and format for delivering future updates prioritize and enable meaningful public engagement and provide clear accountability to the original feedback provided by residents.

With regard to adequate staffing, TEA strongly requests that the City maintain sufficient staffing to uphold the commitments made as a result of the TORR process and previous commitments that need to be maintained, and in some cases accelerated, to ensure a green and just recovery. We noticed that one-third of the Environment and Energy Division (EED) was redeployed and/or recalled to respond to pandemic-related emergency services. We will reiterate that we are deeply appreciative of the frontline work that EED and other City staff have been doing. This said, we urge the City to prioritize climate action as part of recovery efforts; one crisis does not erase another, and the climate crisis is looming and still top of mind for many Toronto residents. We ask the City Manager and the Director, Environment & Energy to commit to a clear timeframe for when EED will be fully staffed up to originally planned levels, so that the Division can deliver the critical Net Zero Strategy and TransformTO Implementation Plan on a timeline that enables these plans/strategies to be fully funded in 2022 budget process.

As you know, Toronto City Council unanimously declared a climate emergency in October 2019 and is working on a plan for accelerated climate actions. A green and just recovery is a significant opportunity for the City to simultaneously address social and economic goals such as reducing poverty, increasing the stock of affordable, quality housing, improving electrified public transit and generating good, green jobs. Lastly, TEA would be more than willing to sit on the net-zero Advisory Committee (per Attachment 3, "D. Tackle Climate Change").



*A Greener City for All*

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a written letter. We would be happy to discuss these matters further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Emmay Mah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Emmay Mah, Executive Director !  
Toronto Environmental Alliance !