

My name is Gail Fairley. I live in Ward 10

Thank you for opportunity to speak today.

My neighborhood has a high number of homeless residents. The Modular Supportive Housing Model is cost effective and meets the needs of homeless residents. The model should be expanded across the city as quickly as possible.

I'm also concerned about affordable housing for all. I have adult children who work but have struggled with the cost of housing. The housing crisis is primarily a crisis for the inadequately housed. It seems to me that we have a city of the very well-to-do and the wealthy, and then everyone else. I would like to see significantly more money allocated to initiatives like the Multi-Unit Acquisition Program and the High-rise Retrofit and Improvement Support Program, as well as the initiatives in Parkdale where the city is buying land and commercial property to insure deeply affordable housing is built. There is a double incentive as new builds and retrofits will be low carbon.

The second issue is the TTC. This budget will increase fares and decrease service. This budget will drive ridership down not up.

Cuts to transit and increased fares are unduly burdensome on low-income residents, who are more likely to be taking buses to get to their low paid jobs.

If we are to meet our TransformTO target of 75% of trips under 5 km to be walked, biked or by transit by 2030, we need to invest in more buses and streetcars, shorten wait times, and we need to reduce fares. We need better off peak service for low-income shift workers.

Climate

The budget does not reflect the scale of the climate emergency and does not align with the financing needed to reach net 0 by 2040. The budget has allotted \$2 billion this year - the city's climate plan calls for \$8 billion a year.

About 60% of Toronto's greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings. TransformTO sets a retrofit target of 29,000 residences and commercial building per year. It looks like the city is depending on funding from other levels of government which may not happen.

Meeting the targets of TransformTO Net 0 must be a top priority.

So, we have a very well thought out plan for climate action but little money.

This leaves us with financing.

I'd like to suggest a few options that Doug Ford can't interfere with.

1. A parking lot levy. One report said a small levy could raise 6 million a year.
2. We could save 2 billion by scrapping the Gardiner Expressway rebuild. WE should not be financing the car culture in a climate crisis.
3. A progressive vehicle registration tax. Small, inexpensive, or used cars would pay a small amount; large cars, and SUVs more and Luxury cars would have a very high registration fee.
4. A 1% portion of the Ontario sales tax. Mayor Tory should advocate strongly for this.
5. The budget is calling for a \$48 million increase to the police as well as \$3.3 million for private security to prevent homeless people from pitching tents in parks and there is funding for more constables on the TTC. Investment in policing the vulnerable, disenfranchised, and black and brown people rather than in social services and housing is a terrible use of scarce dollars. **Decrease the police budget instead of increasing it.** The public is not demanding more policing. It's the police who are demanding more money. And it seems they always get it. Why is that? Please stop wasting money on police.

Finally, I'd like to comment on the budget process. There has not been enough time for the people who elected you to provide an informed response. This is especially worrisome because Mayor Tory now has strong mayor powers that are very undemocratic. I urge mayor Tory to reject his strong mayor powers and behave in a democratic manner.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the budget.