

**From:** [ClimateFast](#)  
**Subject:** [External Sender] We need bold action to fund a better Toronto  
**Date:** August 31, 2023 10:43:09 AM

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Dear City Council and Mayor Olivia Chow,

It's no secret: our city is facing massive financial challenges and people across Toronto are struggling to live here. As community-based organizations and advocates, we are seeing our members and clients face growing inequality, food insecurity, housing precarity, serious health and economic impacts from climate change, and alarming rates of homelessness. The City is no longer affordable or livable for many of the communities we serve, and increasingly unaffordable for our own staff. We are concerned for the provision of mental health and addiction services, along with shelter and long-term housing for those in need.

We are writing to voice our support for the new Long-Term Financial Plan and urge City Council to pursue all the proposed options for increasing revenues, including adopting new revenue tools, strengthening existing ones, and advocating for greater city powers. We have spent years advocating for investments in neighbourhoods and services that we know will help Torontonians, and an end to austerity budgeting. The new Long-Term Financial Plan is an important step to stem the growing crises facing our City.

After years of leadership that refused to responsibly develop revenue streams to fund a growing city, City Council and its new Mayor have an opportunity to do things differently. We are calling on City Council to embrace new revenue tools and tackle our budgetary crisis head on and demonstrate to other levels of government that Toronto is ready to do its part to rebuild our City. With new leadership and the newly released staff report on revenue tools, this Council now has an opportunity to make better choices.

Every year, including this past winter, many of our community partners took part in the city's budget process, sharing the sense of desperation that so many of our clients and community members are feeling. We urged City Council to increase funding for supports for unhoused individuals; fund affordable housing; invest in renter protections; expand community crisis response pilot projects; provide programs and services that benefit families; and increase funding for and access to public transit, including an end to TTC service cuts. We were told that it wasn't possible, that there wasn't enough money to do it. These needs have not dissipated and have since been exacerbated by growing inflation and high housing costs.

For community-based organizations, coalitions, and nonprofits, this updated long-term financial plan is about more than just getting more money in the City's bank account. It's about being able to realize a vision for Toronto where all of our communities, neighbourhoods, businesses, and residents can thrive. We encourage the Mayor and City Councillors to vote in favour of adopting this plan.

Toronto is at a crossroads; this is your chance to set our city on a pathway to address the crises we face today, and plan for a brighter future. Adopting this plan will bring a renewed sense of hope for Toronto. Communities and organizations like ours are ready to help you build a city for all.