
2024 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Public Consultations on the 2024 Budget

1. ISSUE/BACKGROUND

In November 2023, Mayor Chow and Councillor Carroll, Chair of the Budget Committee, invited public input on the 2024 budget and support for the City's work to secure a "New Deal" for immediate and long-term funding from the Federal and Provincial governments. The public consultation was coordinated by the City Manager's Office with the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and supported by staff from multiple divisions.

The consultation invited residents to:

- learn about City services, the City's budget, and relationship with Federal and Provincial governments;
- discuss the current fiscal challenges and pressures;
- consider recent Council decisions following the Updated Long-Term Financial Plan;
- identify which City services they would increase or decrease spending to and why; and,
- provide input and recommend an action they, or the City, could take to secure long-term sustainable funding for Toronto.

Overall, participants expressed significant concerns about the rising costs of living, decreasing housing affordability, mobility challenges, community safety, employment and food insecurity, and access to social services and other government services both online and at the public sessions.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Opportunities for Public Participation

The City provided a range of online, virtual, in-person and community-led opportunities for people to engage in ways that suited their circumstances and ability to participate, including:

- An online survey available between November 1-30, 2023, which included:
 - multiple questions on City services and public priorities.
 - an option to contribute a personal idea about an action the City should focus on.
 - the ability to rate the ideas submitted by other participants.
 - 10,802 people responded to the online survey with over 11,600 ideas generated, and almost 311,000 ratings were submitted on the ideas of others.
- 16 facilitated sessions held between November 20-30, 2023:
 - 10 in-person sessions in 5 locations across Toronto.
 - 6 virtual sessions.

- 661 people participated at in-person and virtual meetings.
- 17 additional discussions led by grassroots and community organizations that engaged 314 residents from Black and equity-deserving communities, and a survey of Indigenous residents led by the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council.

In addition to the public consultation opportunities provided in November 2023, residents and businesses will have a continued opportunity to engage with the 2024 budget process during Public Presentations to the Budget Committee on January 22 and 23, 2023, or through written communication to Budget Committee or their local Councillor.

Major Themes from Public Input

The comments and ideas from participants were wide-ranging, with a diversity of perspectives on the 2024 budget, future years, and broad city issues. In addition to this summary report, the feedback received will be posted to the City's website and shared with City Divisions to inform future budget and service planning. Participant evaluation of this consultation will be applied to future public consultations and communications on the budget.

Major themes from the public include:

- Residents are experiencing significant pressure from:
 - the rising costs of living,
 - decreasing housing affordability,
 - mobility challenges,
 - a declining sense of safety,
 - employment and food insecurity, and
 - concerns related to social and settlement programs and the availability and access to government services generally.
- Participants most frequently identified support for prioritizing funding towards:
 - affordable housing and shelter services, and
 - transit services including Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and Wheel-Trans; and
 - police services.
- Participants most frequently identified the following services as areas to deprioritize funding support for:
 - police services,
 - parking, and
 - support for business, art, culture and entertainment.
- A large majority of participants agreed that the Provincial Government and Federal Government should pay their fair share of funding for services they are responsible for and that will support the City's ability to deliver municipal services and programs.
- Participants in the community-led discussions prioritized:
 - City partnerships with local organizations to provide services,
 - affordable housing, and
 - employment, social and recreational programs and support for youth and seniors.

- A majority of participants expressed a strong willingness to take action with their neighbours to advocate to other levels of government for a New Deal for Toronto.
- Participants indicated that they welcomed the opportunity to discuss budget priorities and appreciated the multiple options to participate.

Advertising and Promotion

An extensive communications and advertisement strategy promoted the multiple opportunities for the public to participate. Communications tactics included print and online advertisements, traditional and digital radio, social media and a new webpage on toronto.ca/budget. Ads were translated for media outlets serving newcomers and communities for whom English is not a first language. Additional social media ads were geo-targeted in mid-November 2023, to reach areas of the city where survey responses were low.

Media interest was significant, generating 236 stories between November 1 and 30, with a reach of more than 228 million. A media launch event on November 1 and a media scrum with the Mayor and Councillor Carroll at the first public sessions, generated the most coverage with 26 percent positive and 74 percent neutral coverage.

Consultation as Part of the 2024 Budget Process

The consultation was timed to engage the public as part of the City’s annual budget process, in advance of the 2024 Budget Launch on January 10, 2024.

This report will support Council Members' consideration of public input along with public deputations, input from councillor town halls and submissions to the Budget Committee that occur during the budget process. Figure 1 summarizes the consultation and review process for the 2024 Budget.

Figure 1: 2024 City Budget Milestones

Budget Consultation November 1-30, 2023	Budget Launch January 10, 2024	Mayor’s Budget Release By February 1, 2024	Special City Council Meeting February 14, 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public feedback through online survey• Online and in-person public sessions• Community-led sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of a Staff-Prepared Budget to the Budget Committee• Budget Committee reviews and hears input from residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor presents budget to City Council• City Council considers Mayor’s budget within 30 days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• City Council considers 2024 Budget.

3. KEY OBSERVATIONS FROM CONSULTATION

Coordinated by the City Manager's Office with the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and supported by staff from multiple divisions, the consultation invited residents to learn about the municipal government and the City budget, discuss their ideas for addressing Toronto's financial challenges for 2024 and actions the City and public could take to secure longer-term sustainable funding for Toronto across all orders of government.

Since the goal of the consultation was to offer the public multiple options to learn, share their ideas and meet other residents, Members of Council and City staff, discussions and input varied by how participants chose to engage, whether they submitted their feedback online or in-person, at a City-run or community-led process, or if they provided multiple, detailed or short, focussed feedback. While the discussions and questions were focused on the City's budget and priorities, many participants commented on the City generally, including services that crossed multiple divisions as well as community and global issues.

This report summarizes key observations and themes across all the consultation methods, and while it represents a significant number of participants, the data cannot be assumed to be statistically representative of Toronto's population.

Across all consultation activities, participants were asked to comment on:

- Which service should the City spend more on? Less on? Why?
- What priorities do you want the Federal and Provincial governments to contribute to in a New Deal?
- What critical action do you want the City to focus on for a livable, equitable and affordable city?
- What actions will you take with your neighbours to get a New Deal and achieve long-term stability and sustainability of Toronto's finances?

While participants were able to select a single City service for additional or decreased investments in the online survey, participants at the public sessions used a paper form to identify multiple services. Many noted that City services were often interconnected, the City's budget challenges were complex and that they had an interest in multiple services.

Appendix 1 includes examples of public input organized by the following themes:

- Housing and Shelters
- Transit and Transportation
- Intergovernmental Collaboration
- Taxes and Revenue Tools
- Spending and Accountability
- Safety and Enforcement
- Supporting Communities
- Supporting Businesses, Arts and Culture
- Environment and Climate
- Public Spaces and Amenities.



The online survey allowed respondents to choose one service as a priority for City funding. Figure 2 shows how respondents prioritized City services in the survey and at public sessions.

Services Identified by Participants as Most Important for Additional City Investment

Participants were able to prioritize a City service as a candidate to receive additional funding. Sample comments shared by participants are included in Attachment A.

1. **Affordable Housing and Shelters** was the City service chosen by the most respondents as the service that was the most important to them for additional investments. When respondents chose from a list of reasons why they ranked that service high, many suggested it was because the service supports social, physical and mental well-being, makes life easier or more affordable and makes Toronto safer (see Figure 3).
2. **TTC and Wheel-Trans** was the next most frequently mentioned priority for increased funding. Many respondents suggested it makes it easier to get around, is a fundamental municipal service, and makes life easier or more affordable.
3. **Police Services** was the third most commonly identified priority for increased funding, and also the service most frequently identified for reduced funding, as described below. When advocating for increased funding to police services, many respondents suggested it makes Toronto safer, it is a fundamental municipal service and good use of property taxes or user fees.

These themes were consistent at both the City-run public sessions and the community-led discussions. In surveys administered by the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC), respondents also highlighted support for increased funding for dedicated Indigenous services and service providers.

In-person meeting participants were each provided with three coloured dots to identify up to three issues or services they chose as their highest priority for increased funding. Figure 4 shows those responses.



Figure 2 - City service selected by survey participants for increased investments.

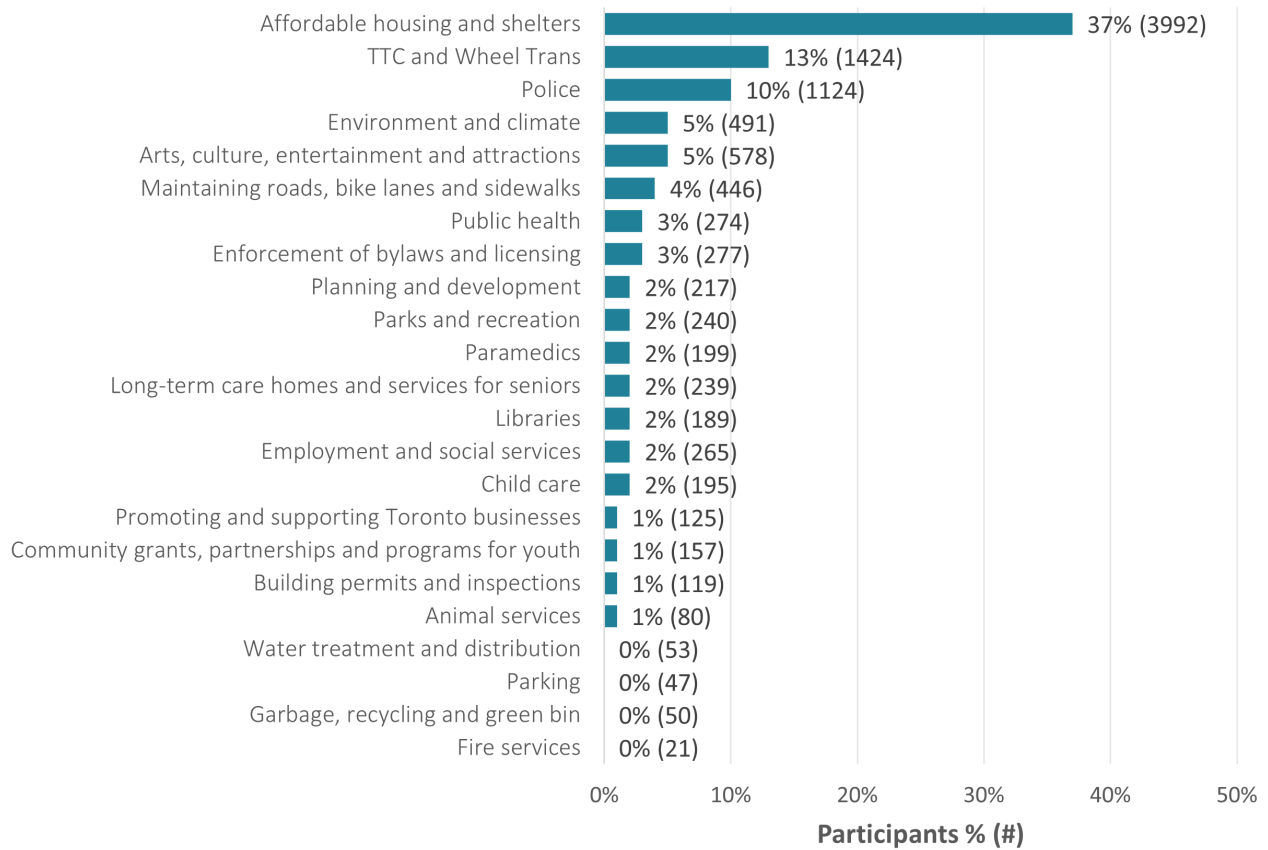


Figure 3: Reasons why survey respondents identified a particular service as a budget priority.

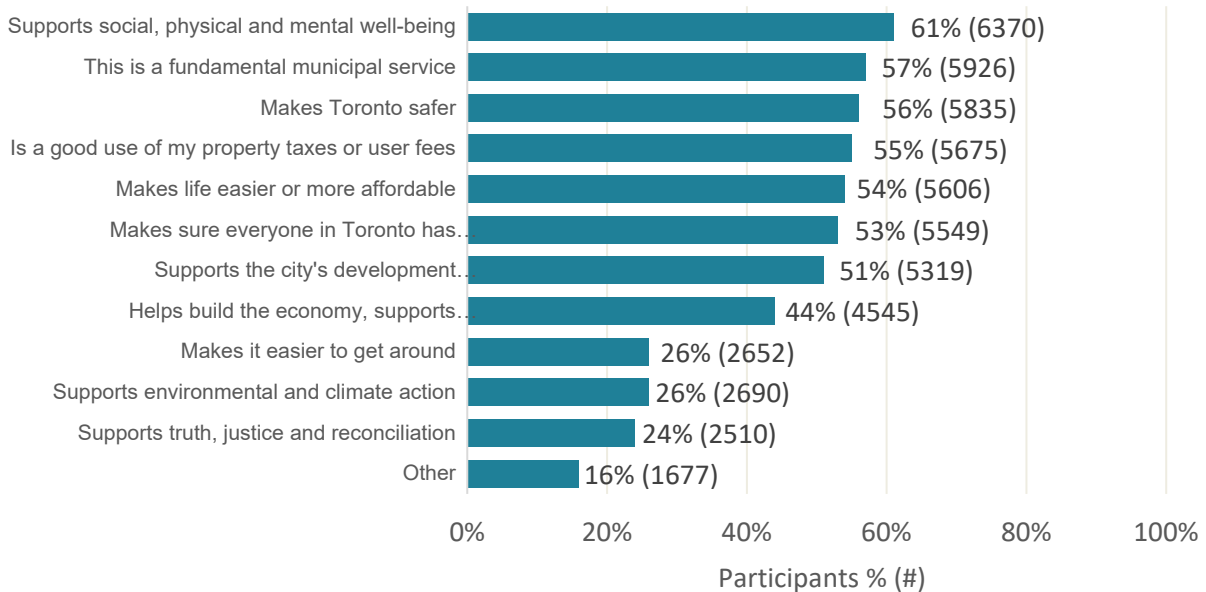
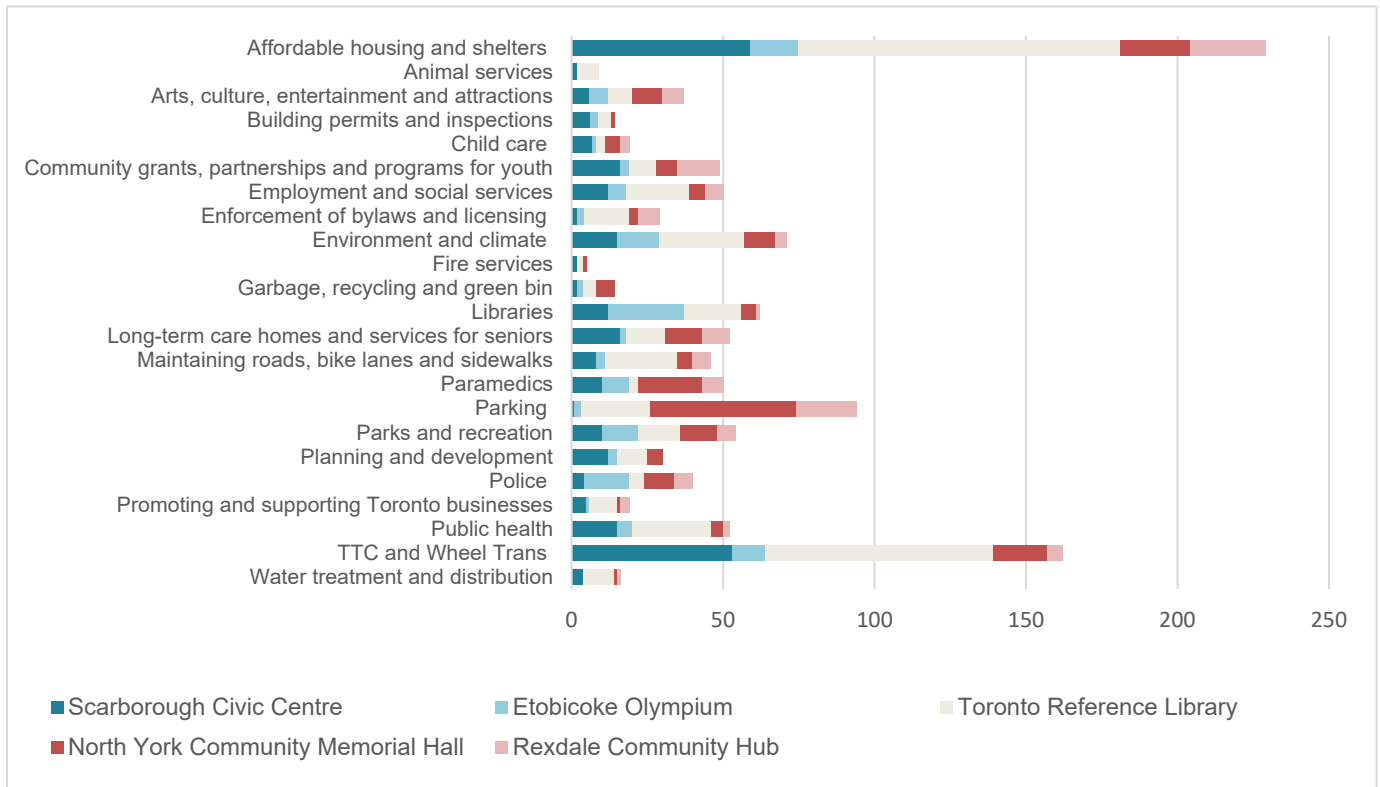


Figure 4 – Graph of coloured dots posted by participants at public sessions showing priority City services.



Services Identified by Participants for Reduced Investments

The online survey allowed respondents to choose one service as a candidate to receive less City funding. Figure 5 shows the City services selected by respondents in the survey and at public sessions, and Figure 6 lists the reasons cited in the survey. Attachment A provides a sample of comments provided by participants.

1. **Police Services** was most frequently mentioned for decreased funding. Many suggested this funding should go to another program, felt as though sufficient funds were directed to this service already, and that there were opportunities to manage the service more effectively before the City increased funds. In meetings, many participants felt there were negative impacts of policing, particularly in Black and equity-deserving communities, and suggested that funding be reallocated to mental health, social and economic programs.
2. **Parking** was the second-most frequently mentioned service for reduced funding. Many suggested this funding could be better utilized by another program and that the funding benefits some residents more than others.
3. **Promoting and Supporting Businesses** and **Arts, Culture, Entertainment and Attractions** were also identified by survey respondents for reduced funding. Many suggested this funding should go to another program and that the funding benefits some residents more than others.

Figure 5: City service selected by survey participants for decreased investments.

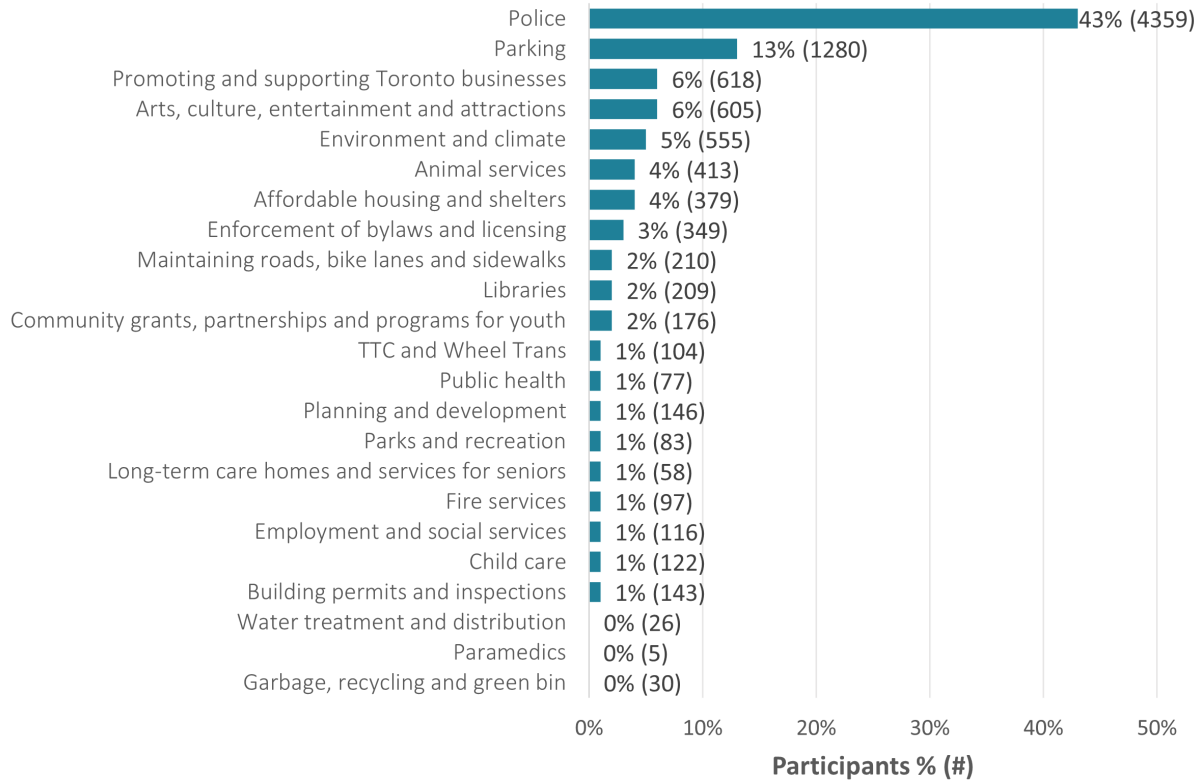
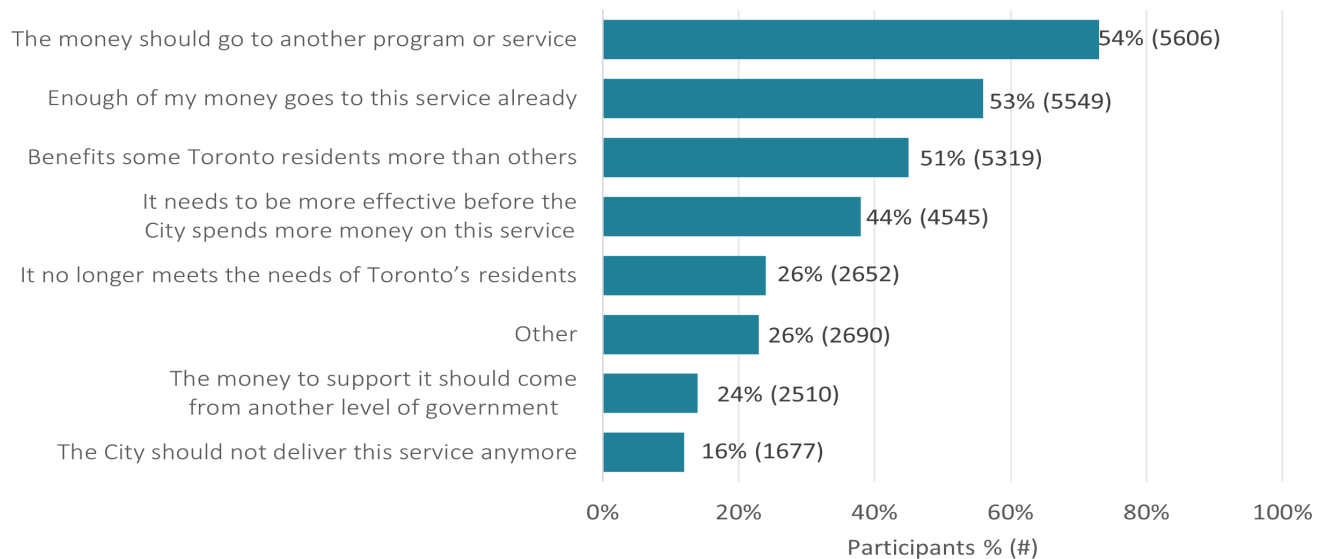


Figure 6: Reasons why survey respondents identified a particular service for decreased investment (respondents could choose multiple options).



Participant Input on Intergovernmental Relations and Funding

The consultation provided participants with information about the roles of each order of government and listed services that are within the Provincial and Federal Governments' responsibilities, including housing and emergency shelters, highways, public safety, refugees, health and transit. Participants were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that the other levels of government should pay more for the services that are their responsibilities. Participants indicated very strong support for provincial and federal governments increasing funding:

- 85% of survey respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the **Provincial** government should pay a fair share for services that are their responsibility (Figure 7).
- 88% of survey respondents participants either agreed or strongly agreed that the **Federal** government should pay a fair share for services that are their responsibility (Figure 8).
- 98% of public meeting participants who provided written responses to these questions agreed that the Provincial and Federal governments should pay a fair share.

In surveys administered by TASSC, all respondents indicated that deals with the Provincial and Federal governments should properly fund programs and services for Indigenous communities and individuals.

Figure 7: Survey agreement with the statement that the Provincial government should pay for services that are their responsibilities.

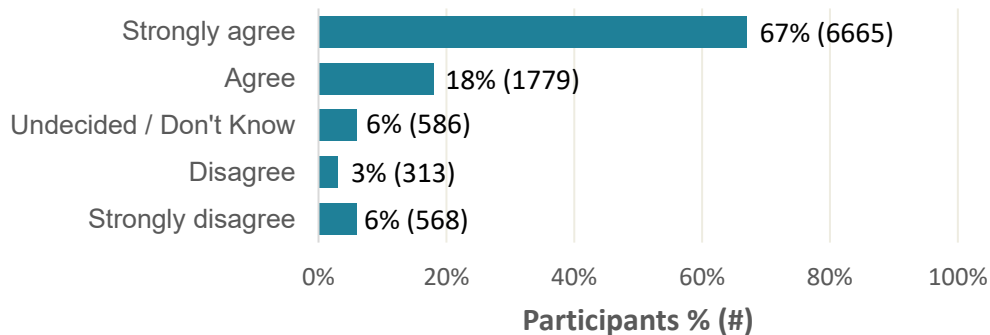
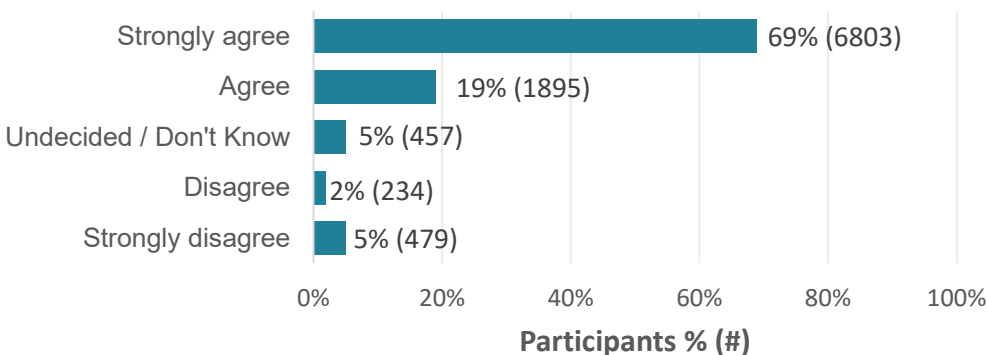
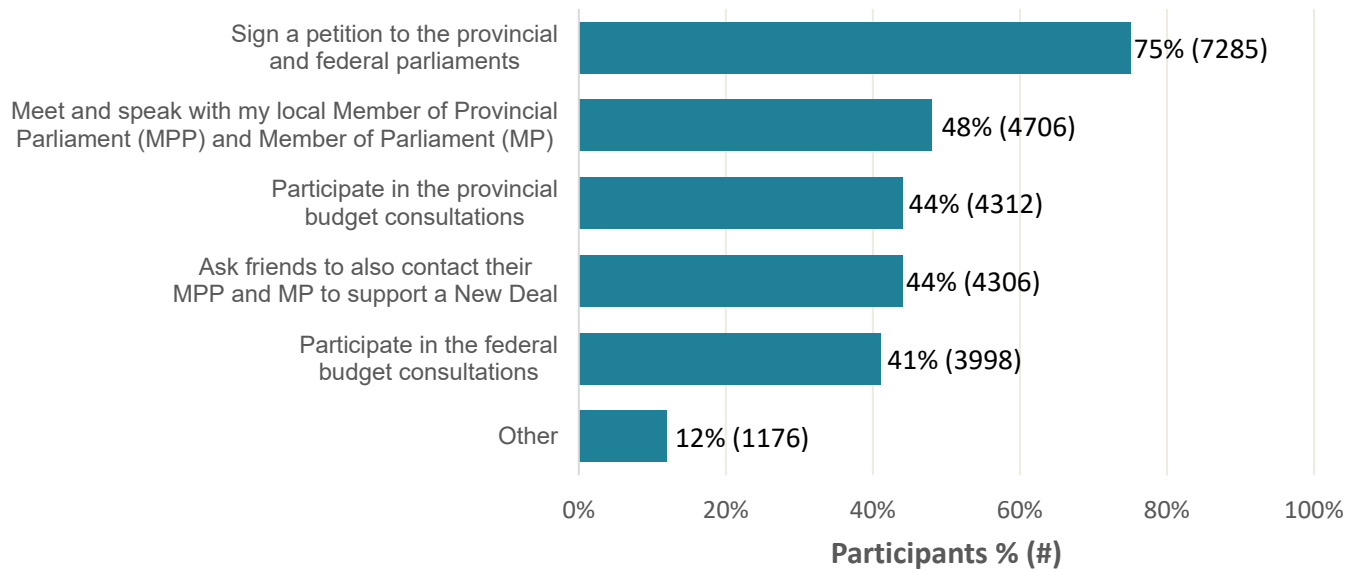


Figure 8: Survey agreement with the statement that the Federal government should pay for services that are their responsibilities.



The Budget Consultation also included a question asking participants what action they would take to support the City's work to secure a New Deal for long-term financial sustainability. Three-quarters (75%) of participants expressed willingness to sign a petition to the Provincial and Federal governments, and almost half (48%) of participants expressed willingness to meet with their local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) and Member of Parliament (MP) (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Action survey respondents indicated they would take to support a New Deal.



4. CONSULTATION METHODS AND PARTICIPATION

The City Manager's Office, working with an external consultant, designed the public engagement and consultation to provide accessible information and support broad participation, including from Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving communities.

The City's website and a presentation delivered by the Budget Committee Chair and the City's Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer at each public session described how the City is funded and how ongoing intergovernmental and pandemic-related pressures have contributed to the significant financial challenges the City is facing. See Attachment 2 for copies of the presentation materials.

Online Survey and Idea Exchange

An online consultation platform invited residents to respond to the key questions, contribute their ideas for making Toronto more affordable, livable and equitable, and rate other respondents' responses. The platform offered participants a greater range of perspectives than a traditional survey might have by inviting respondents to view and indicate their level of support for the ideas of others. The platform was highly engaging including the ability to participate through mobile devices and supported a variety of languages.

The online survey and idea exchange resulted in:

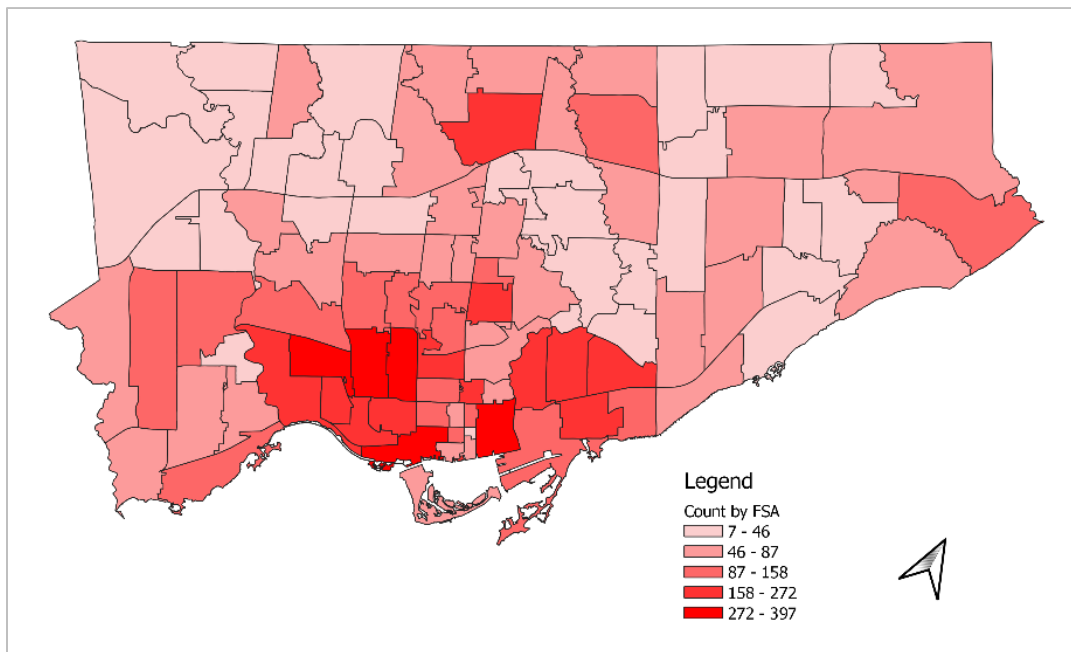
- 10,802 survey responses.

- Over 11,600 ideas.
- Almost 311,000 ratings of participant ideas.
- Responses in 28 languages

Insights from these responses are provided in the Observations section of this report.

The survey included optional demographic questions. Respondents to the survey reported they were participating from across the city, with the greatest response rate from the former City of Toronto. See Figure 10. Participation from less-represented areas increased during the month with additional attention to promotion and targeted advertising.

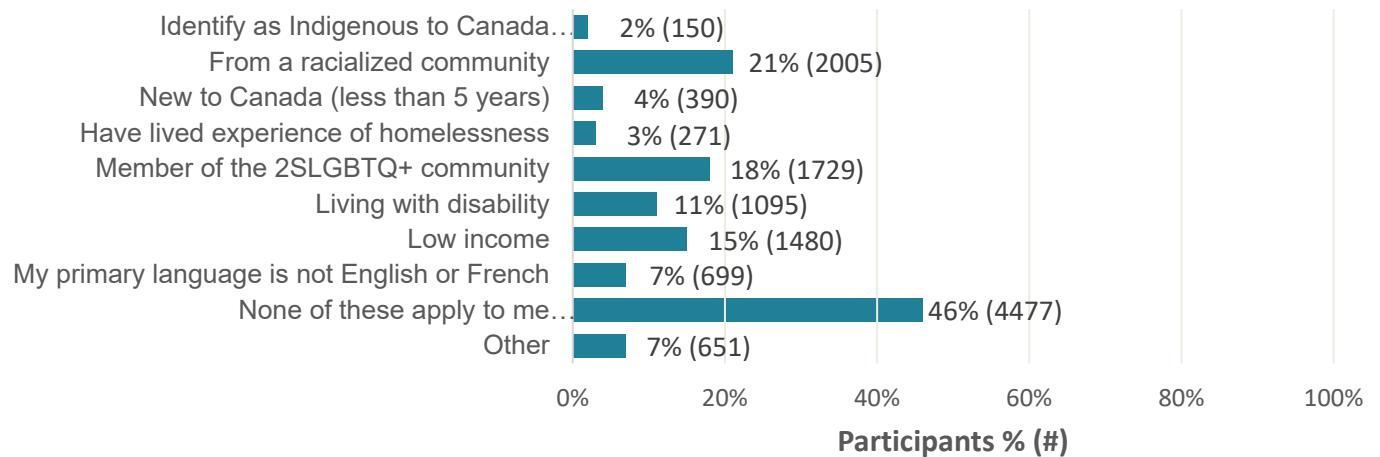
Figure 10: Mapping of the first three digits of Postal Code (FSA) provided by survey respondents (N = 9,695 out of 10,802 respondents).



Most survey participants who responded to a question about their age were between ages 20-54 with fewer participants under 19 years old or above 55 years old. Of 157 participants who provided their age at in-person meetings, 42% were between 30-54 years old and 22% were between 20-29 years old. Older Torontonians participated in greater numbers as the consultation proceeded, which may be due to outreach, media coverage and advertising.

Survey respondents were also invited to indicate if they had lived experience in several areas, including as First Nations, Inuit or Metis, from a racialized community, as a newcomer or as someone living with a disability or low income. See Figure 11. Of 183 participants who shared this information at in-person meetings, 40% identified as being from a racialized community, 20% were low income and 18% were members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Figure 11: Survey respondents' self-identified lived experience.



To ensure a respectful, welcoming, and safe experience for all participants, City staff used both computer and human moderation tools to review the ideas collected online in real-time and ensure comments related to the 2024 budget. Of the over 11,600 ideas submitted, less than 600 (0.05% of total) comments were flagged as offensive, discriminatory, spam, containing personal information, personally attacking individuals or unrelated to the budget discussion. Comments about the survey and consultation will be reviewed as part of the staff evaluation of the process.

Public Meetings

Between November 20-30, the City hosted 16 in-person and virtual sessions (on Zoom) for residents to meet the Mayor, Budget Chair, and City staff, ask questions and discuss their priorities with other attendees and participating Members of Council.

Each meeting began with a presentation by Councillor Shelley Carroll, Chair of the Budget Committee, and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Stephen Conforti that provided an overview of operating and capital budgets, how property tax dollars and revenues generally flow between the City and other levels of government, and the ongoing and pandemic-related factors that have contributed to the financial pressures facing the City in 2024.

Residents at tables and virtual breakout rooms were then invited to share their feedback on priorities and concerns and ask questions of City staff and Members of Council, who moved between tables and breakout rooms to listen and respond to questions. Facilitators captured key themes of input and participants were also encouraged to provide feedback through the online survey to see and rate the comments of other Torontonians. At in-person meetings, participants were also invited to submit their feedback on written worksheets and identify up to three service priorities through an exercise using coloured dots.

There was a wide variety of ages, backgrounds and lived experiences among meeting participants. Detailed demographic information was not widely collected at the public in-person and online sessions.

Table 1 shows participation for each meeting. Two 90-minute sessions were offered on each date, and there were weekday, weekend, mid-day and evening times to offer flexibility. Pre-

registration indicated the public's interest in the events which also supported staff to coordinate facilitators and materials for participants.

Table 1: Participants and Registrations for Public Meetings

Event	Total Participants	1st Session	2nd Session	Registration
Scarborough Civic Centre, Nov. 20, 7-10 PM	142	130	12	165
Etobicoke Olympium, Nov. 21, 7-10 PM	40	31	9	55
Virtual meeting, Nov. 23, 12-3 PM	74	39	35	160
Toronto Reference Library, Nov. 25, 12-3 PM	161	100	61	258
North York Civic Centre, Nov. 27, 7-10 PM	87	72	15	65
Virtual meeting, Nov. 28, 7-10 PM	62	49	13	142
Rexdale Hub, Nov. 29, 7-10 PM	40	33	7	53
Virtual meeting, Nov. 30, 7-10 PM	55	32	23	151
Total Participants	661	486	175	1,049

Community-led Discussions

Supporting participation from Black, Indigenous and equity-deserving residents was an objective of the budget consultation, to ensure their voices and perspectives were heard and to build awareness and interest in the annual budget process among these communities. City staff in Social Development, Finance and Administration reached out to organizations involved in the City's Community Coordination Plan (CCP) to support community and resident groups to lead their own local consultations and to promote the online survey and public meetings. The City also provided resources to TASSC to survey Indigenous residents. With funding from the City and the tools provided on the City's website, 15 CCP groups and TASSC engaged directly with residents to seek their perspectives and ideas (see Table 2):

Table 2: Organization-led community consultations.

Community Cluster + Organization	Participants
South Etobicoke - Arab Community Centre of Toronto	15
Black Creek Humber Summit – Black Creek Community Health Centre	14
North Etobicoke - Rexdale Community Hub organizations	27
Black Resilience - Dua Kro Family Services	10
North Scarborough - Extend-a-Family	18
York Weston Pelham – Progress Place/Community Hub	11
South Scarborough – Access Alliance	20
Downtown West – West Neighbourhood House	15
North York – North York Harvest Food Bank	13
East York Don Valley – The Neighbourhood Organization (7 + 10 at 2 meetings)	17
Toronto Youth Cabinet (40 + 57 at 2 meetings)	97
Downtown East – Street Haven	10

Social Planning Toronto	22
Black Resilience - Ubuntu	15
Newcomers – FCJ Refugee Centre	10
Total meeting participants:	314

5. PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON CONSULTATION METHODS

Participants were provided a short evaluation form at the community-led discussions and online participants also provided feedback on the consultation. Suggestions included making the budget documents more accessible so that it would be easier for grassroots leaders to bring the information back to communities and help with knowledge translation. Participants also noted it is difficult to have the time to read long budget documents, and talked about the importance of covering the City Budget in local news outlets so the public could be more informed about it. Some online survey respondents commented on the wording of the questions and made suggestions for improvements.

The majority of respondents indicated that they were glad they attended, that it was easy to participate, that they learned something, and that they would be willing to participate again in future budget consultations. Feedback included simpler presentations, better room setup, more time for table discussions, having councillors and staff join more discussions and ensuring participants had sufficient time to contribute, printing copies of the presentation for participants to take home, and providing refreshments in the future.

The majority of those who completed an evaluation of a virtual meeting thanked the City for conducting the budget sessions. Suggestions for improvements included having at least one finance expert in each room while the CFO circulated to different breakout rooms, some felt that there needed to be more time at the breakouts, time limits for each speaker and increased outreach to attract a greater diversity of participants.

Attachments:

- A: Major Themes from Public Feedback
- B: Sample Slides from Public Presentation

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Attachment A. Major Themes from Public Feedback

1. Themes of Public Input from Online Survey

This table includes a sample of ideas, rated multiple times by the public, representing the range of ideas and issues submitted through the online survey on the question: *What critical action do you want the City to focus on for a livable, equitable and affordable Toronto for all?*

Theme	Sample Comments (verbatim) from Online Survey
Housing and Shelters	<p><i>Affordable housing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe housing is a fundamental human right and supports the social determinants of health. • I believe housing is making every other challenge in Toronto much more difficult right now. Progress in this issue may alleviate other problems as well, so it's an efficient first step. • Will help keep young educated people in the city, will help support multicultural neighbourhoods which keep the city vibrant. • The lack of affordable housing is a growing crisis in the city. • Attack the housing issue from as many angles as possible to get housing more affordable now and into the future. • Clamp down on vacant properties. Hold investors accountable for leaving their properties vacant when it can be better used. • Enforce regulations on corporate and investor ownership of housing. The city needs funding for affordable housing supply and fast-track permits. Pushing generations out of market result in future retirees being primarily renters and working till 80 putting pressure on younger generation for jobs. • Better and more inclusive zoning to densify neighbourhoods awash in single family homes. • Improve city planning and development to allow increased density and different housing types to expand housing throughout the city. Too little choice between condos or single family housing leading to unaffordable housing and unsustainable development. • Support more housing co-ops. Build/create city housing. Push province and feds to subsidize. Shelter is a basic need impacting quality of life. Having to spend most of one's income on housing also leaves little to fuel the economy. <p><i>Support for renters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need actually affordable rental units that are geared to income or well below market value. The people that make Toronto what it is can't afford to live here anymore. I'm an artist and faced with leaving the city if prices keep increasing. • Build non-market housing by providing public land, incentives, etc. Non-market or non-profit housing provides an affordable, long-term solution to housing, and helps bring down rents across the market. • Greater regulatory enforcement on landlords and rental agencies to ensure fairness in how they deal with tenants. • Fill in the "missing middle", ie mid density, walkable neighborhoods via zoning changes, incentives, social housing etc. I've the advantage of renting in the same building for over 11 years. This accessible rent allowed me to start my own business nearby, 6 min by bike. <p><i>Shelter support:</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The municipality has a deep on-the-ground understanding of Torontonians' housing and shelter needs, and therefore has a responsibility to act on the housing and shelter crises. • Housing is a basic human right and it is really disheartening to see (including myself) so many people struggling to pay rent, leading to precarious housing. It is also scary that shelters are maxed. • Prioritize affordable homes and not overly rely on shelters. Shelters, while necessary, do not provide a long-term solution to homelessness. Stable housing options is the key, and it should be an option for all. • Be creative in finding sustainable long-term options for shelters and assisted housing/ affordable housing in all sorts of locations. A place to rest, a home is so critical for people mentally and physically in terms of whole health. A safe place to sleep allows a leg up to grow. • To improve the financial support in housing and shelters, because the youth and homeless are going to be unable or very difficult to live in today's world. • Open the armouries for additional warm space for homeless people. It's a matter of survival. • Limit immigration until homes can be found for existing new arrivals. Toronto is overwhelmed with homeless people. They deserve a safe warm home. Accepting them requires responsibility on TO's part. Fix the mess you have.
<p>Transit and Transportation</p>	<p><i>Improve public transit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliable, safe, affordable public transit is something that can and should be used by all of the city's residents. It checks all of the boxes above and it is needed to reduce traffic congestion. • Residents in Scarborough are always left out of a Transit plan. It will be a huge improvement in quality of life if they did not need to travel 2 hrs one way to get to work. • A well-built, comprehensive transit network (and frequent scheduling to support it) allows people to move through the city cheaply, efficiently and equitably. • A good transit system is the building block to any just and equitable society. Peoples' livelihoods depend on it, it's environmentally responsible to utilize public transit. Toronto needs better ttc. • Speed up the TTC upgrades and invest in public transit. Subways & Streetcars are packed daily. Unpleasant and unsafe. TTC continues to lag behind the surge in population growth in the GTA. • Better and affordable public transit. Provide access for all members of society. • Transit needs to be wildly more accessible and far reaching. Allows more people to live outside the core or, frees up congestion, reduces pollution, helps smaller community economy by being able to get to them. • Better transit. Transit gives everyone equitable access to jobs, events, services, entertainment, and all the great aspects of the city. • TTC must be improved to ensure people, especially those in low income areas, can get where they need to go in a reliable and timely manner. Public transportation is essential in a city of this size! Too many cars on the road! <p><i>Improve transportation infrastructure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better bike infrastructure. It will reduce the number of drivers and TTC users, making them both less busy. Also biking is so much fun and gives people a great way to exercise. • Better alternative transport options that is environmentally friendly, such as more dedicated bike lanes, walking paths, and transit. Reduce traffic, more personal time, better health, better community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get construction moving, all the TTC construction takes years it's so obvious we are being robbed. It puts businesses out of business. All streets are one lane now with construction it's unacceptable in a city of this size. • Stop building bike lanes where there is zero usage and demand! Stop treating cyclist above everyone else! We deserve better and safer transit, not more empty bike lanes. Not all of are young and able bodied. • Only build protected bike lanes. If it's just paint on the ground, it will not protect anyone. Please only build protected bike lanes • Tackle the gridlock, remove bike lanes from major streets. Because TTC is not a reliable form of transportation and I don't see the bike lanes used to justify the gridlock. • The city should be building a genuine transit plan rather than encouraging parking. • The City's parking rates are too inexpensive. Increase rates to incent people to make better choices and raise revenue. • Highly subsidized parking undermines public transit. It also promotes sprawl & contributes to pollution & urban heat islands. It's also a highly inequitable distribution of public assets. • Parking fees should be higher and account for the value of the land as well as the nuisance (noise, pollution, safety concerns) of more cars in the city.
<p>Intergovernmental Collaboration</p>	<p><i>Transportation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate on funding transit and highways: • Engage provincial and federal gov to assist with TTC budget. Residents of city alone cannot sustain appropriate budget for TTC. It's a service benefiting others in province & should be paid for by all. • Have the higher govt pick up their tab. Toronto is the only fully fare funded transit system in Canada for example. Free up resources for other initiatives. • Pressure the Provincial Government to upload the DVP/Gardiner Expressway. Maintenance costs for the DVP/Gardiner are astronomical and used primarily by 905/GTA residents. <p><i>Immigration / refugee housing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get money ongoing from the federal government. They set the immigration targets and people disproportionately end up here. The feds need to deal with the consequences of their policies. • We receive the impact of immigration and refugees - insufficient funding. It sets up those individuals and Families for failure in an expensive city. Toronto taxpayers have taken the burden of provincial and federal responsibilities. We are becoming a city without infrastructure. • Work with the feds to better manage the flow of ALL classes of newcomers to match the supports/housing/social service's infrastructure. supply/demand. Housing crisis, healthcare crisis, refugees sleeping on streets, homeless in hotels, mental health services • Public support for high targets via the Feds immigration policy is gone. At the city level, sustainable population is crucial. Sustainable, not rapidly growing, population is the only way to pursue climate and biodiversity goals. Netzero, resource security are crucial. <p><i>Collaborate on funding housing and other services:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work TOGETHER with the provincial and federal government on providing physically accessible affordable housing. The population is aging rapidly. We need to build with future needs in mind. Work together to avoid expensive future healthcare and renovation costs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Federal and Provincial governments fund affordable housing, the Gardiner and other highways that pass through Toronto, etc. No more off-loading Federal & Provincial responsibilities to a city that can't afford it. We need our municipal tax \$ to go to needed infrastructure. • Deal with the province to impose more effective rent controls, impose speculation taxes, and road tolls. The City needs to focus on core city services core city services - the arts, libraries, Parks & Rec - to make living here something that current residents want to continue to do. <p><i>Shared benefits:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one action is going to solve Toronto's problems. Bring all three levels of government together and look to what works in other jurisdictions. Toronto is the economic hub of Canada. • We must insist that the Federal and Provincial governments invest more money in Toronto, as the city cannot continue paying for Fed and Prov decisions. The city is massively underfunded given the amount of services we provide that should be covered by other government jurisdictions. • Seek out more financial support from province/feds Toronto is the engine of the country. When it thrives the country benefits. • Invest in community services and mental health supports. Advocate for the provincial and federal governments not to cut spending for public healthcare. An upstream approach to keeping people healthy and able to live their lives, would reduce the need for downstream services like shelters and police.
<p>Taxes and Revenue Tools</p>	<p><i>Taxes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put additional Tax on people buying residential properties for investment purposes especially foreign buyers. It will create more housing in the city as housing is not an investment but a necessity. • Airbnbs owners and visitors should be contributing considering they are using up valuable resources. There should be a city tax on Airbnb owners and the more units you own the more they pay. Short term rentals should be taxed. • Increase the Vacant Home Tax significantly. Multiple benefits: incentivizes property owners to not leave homes empty, increases housing supply, and at the same time increases city revenue funds. • I understand Toronto has problems creating revenue at this time. Please consider raising property taxes for multi-dwelling landlords. • Tax Owners Of 3+ Properties. Raise revenue by taxing those who have 3 or more residential properties in Toronto. • Increase land transfer tax on homes over 3 million. The city needs money and more affluent should pay more as they are not hurting as much others. • Protect the average people who live here from infeasible costs of living. Grocery chains cashed in from the pandemic. Condo prices are impossible but they keep being built. Make the city a place for not only for the rich. • Not to increase the cost of living any further. We should be looking at making the government more efficient and therefore requiring less revenue. The answer that governments always go to first is we need revenue. Not can we lower our costs. • Reduce taxes so we can keep/spend what we earn. Acknowledge the homeless crisis is less about housing and more about untreated mental health and addictions. Housing First only works for those able. • Reduce taxation; prioritize primary responsibilities; stop funding social benefits directly related to Federal immigration responsibility. Increasing spending and taxation only makes city more expensive; does not improve affordability.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce expenditures on grant programs and other non-basic services. Do not provide services that should be provided by other government levels. Reduce taxes and re-allocate money to crumbling infrastructure. <p><i>Fees, fines and charges:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestion pricing! Please, I beg! Look and London and New York as examples. Our taxes should not be subsidizing drivers. Reinvest money collected into better transit infrastructure. • ENFORCE laws and bylaws! Fine drivers that block intersections, owners that don't leash dogs, etc. people have gotten too nonchalant about rules! Bring in order AND \$\$\$
<p>Spending and Accountability</p>	<p><i>Accountability and transparency:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue this open dialogue. Know what matters most to city residents. • Needs to be better management of capital projects. I doubt if more than a fraction of let contracts are on time or budget. • Hold construction accountable. Construction is constantly behind and causing issues across the city. Vendors are not held accountable and financially benefit from overruns and delay. <p><i>Efficiencies and reallocations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop frivolous spending, like renaming streets. There are many more important things that should take priority. • Invest in the TTC and Bike Share. Forget about wasting money on renaming Dundas Street. Instead of spending millions to rename Dundas we should spend millions improving streetcar service and bike lanes on Dundas. • Municipal employees need to perform their work in the most efficient, cost effective way. This requires change from long standing norms If this isn't addressed, the operating budget will not improve. • While reducing the police budget could help top up other services we must rethink how we approach poverty + dignity and apply solutions wholistically. Investing in affordable, public +communal housing should be the first step and not the only remedy for poverty; Childcare, healthcare + transit next. • Cops Aren't Needed at Construction Site. Police need to help with community issues like increase in car theft, and TTC vs standing idle at construction sites. • Divest funds from TPS and redirect funding to community support initiatives like mental health support, infrastructure, and affordable housing. TPS consistently gets funding *increases* year-over-year, despite being a hostile band-aid solution to extremely core & fundamental city-wide issues.
<p>Safety and Enforcement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's mind boggling that nothing can be done when it comes to break-ins and car thefts. This has a significant impact on people's wallets, from deductibles, to higher rates in certain areas, to general. • Toronto is no longer a safe city. The TTC is not safe, roads need more policing. Biker riders need policing they cause accident never get ticketed why? • You should never have a wait time for 911, and yet we do. With the increase in population and crime, we need to bring back the police force we once had to keep our communities safe. • The police budget has eroded as a % of taxpayer-funded city budget for over a decade; has not kept pace with population growth; is lower per capita than comparably sized cities. • We've continued to decrease the police while the population grows. Crime is rising. TTC shows increased security brings more safety. Actually. • The police get far too much of the City budget, and they are being paid to do social work which should go to social and youth workers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much money is wasted on police doing things like crisis response or traffic control or construction site monitoring which could be done either by people better qualified or less expensive. • Increased spending on policing has not made the city any safer. It's time we tried something different and address the root causes. Supporting the unhoused, mental health, poverty. • While I'm not in favour of "defunding the police" (they have a role), they currently occupy far too much of our budget. And I'm not convinced they are really listening to Torontonians' needs. • Enforce bylaws. Generates revenue for the city + makes the city safer. • Fix the lack of police in the city. Wait time to get cops to come and help when we call 911 is very long. 911 takes forever to answer. Lack of EMS. Lack of safety and security is worrisome and it needs immediate attention. It's a huge problem when public can't go out without being assaulted. • Make the TTC safe, and improve response times of Police and Paramedics. Because safety of the city should always be important and improvements to these services will help me not live in fear • People should feel safe living anywhere in Toronto, not just wealthier neighborhoods. It touches on housing, equity, transit, community safety, and general positivity in the City. • Enforce traffic laws and up the consequences of dangerous and careless driving. Increase of tickets = more money for programs for those in need. Traveling in the city is stressful and dangerous. We won't accept anarchy on the roads. Safety for all, consequences for those who put others at risk. • Need to make residents feel safe including on subways, without high transit riders this city becomes unlivable. • Try to make the city safer for our most vulnerable citizens Children and Seniors. Children are our future, seniors have earned the right to a safe environment.
<p>Supporting Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase focus on healthy communities — obviously housing, but includes good public health initiatives, healthy air and water, more public space. Protecting the health of the population is important, and with climate change, the reduction of public space, poor health, everyone suffers. • Invest in social programs that support long-term change (e.g., housing, social services, employment, mental health, transit) It will support the long-term growth and well being of all who live in TO. • Provide dignified care and services for the most vulnerable populations Can we consider ourselves a world-class, established yet rich in potential city, if seniors, children & youth, and precariously housed aren't served?
<p>Supporting Businesses, Arts and Culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt policies which favour and promote small businesses., eg don't allow Landlords to leave huge amounts of commercial space vacant. Small businesses promote a vibrant, exciting, diverse city with employment. • Focus more on small businesses. Especially the red tape around I To is unacceptable. Loosen restrictions. Allow small businesses to prosper. We need small business. it use to be the cornerstone of our economy. Everything is big business now and the city runs itself like a "big" business. • Support visual arts and the performing arts. It feeds our minds, it grounds us and helps us see the world and lived experiences of other people. • Way too many other important social programs need \$ before supporting business that can promote themselves through other means. • Businesses should be effectively promoting themselves. • City shouldn't subsidize private businesses. • Business can be supported by other levels of government or their own industry association.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in the arts sector and individual artists through living wage programs, land trusts, and community programs that create space for practice. Artists contribute a far greater proportion to the city's economy and vitality than they are recognized for, and many live under the poverty line.
Environment and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant trees. A cheap way to cool Toronto, improve climate resilience, and make our city more beautiful. Maintain our shared spaces such as green spaces that we all need and use. In a city our green spaces act as our shared backyard. They create strong communities and are the first step in supporting environmental initiatives. Invest in and maintain Toronto's natural assets - ravines, beaches and green spaces are amazing culturally and environmentally. These spaces are good for communities, for mental health, but also provide fresh air, reduce flooding and provide relief from heat in a warming city.
Public Spaces and Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed use zoning in all residential areas. Chip away at car reliance by having convenience stores, coffee shops, and other small businesses within walking distance for everyone. Care for and create more parks and green spaces, and programming in them. Parks are everything! Free for all! Space to live and learn and play and rest. I would love to see them more animated and full of life. Keep supporting services like parks and libraries and community centres. These services are so valuable and it is important to have places for people to gather for free / low cost.

2. Major Themes from In-Person/Virtual Sessions

This table includes a sample of ideas shared at the facilitated virtual and in-person sessions. Ideas are paraphrased to summarize similar comments and themes.

Themes	Summarized Comments from In-Person/Virtual Sessions
Housing and Shelters	<p><i>Affordable housing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing affordable housing is a top priority, especially for students, artists, and cultural communities. Overwhelming support for increased funding for housing, emphasizing a blend of affordable, subsidized, and supportive housing, and diversity in affordable housing types, such as co-ops, public housing and modular housing. Prioritize affordable housing initiatives, including rent geared-to-income options, integration into communities and subsidies for student housing. Advocacy for public development and management of housing rather than relying on developers. Proposals for affordable housing in new developments, with some suggesting 30% set aside. Rethink city zoning to allow for more responsive housing solutions. Concerns about short-term rentals impacting housing availability. Concerns about racism affecting housing security. Explore opportunities for retrofitting empty office buildings into homes. Encourage long-term thinking and innovative solutions, including the use of contingency funds and loans that can be paid back. Support for a revolving fund to build housing, drawing inspiration from models like New York City. <p><i>Support for renters:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for rent control and prevention of renovations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund TCHC maintenance, more long-term care homes and services for seniors, and enforcement for homeless-related challenges in recreational spaces. • Monitor and enforce rules for landlords and developers to protect tenants rights. • Strengthen RentSafeTO, pest control enforcement, and improved senior housing. <p><i>Shelter support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the cost-effectiveness of shelters versus housing to guide budget allocations, focus on addressing root causes of housing crisis rather than implementing band-aid solutions. • Concerns about homelessness and the need for more shelters, safe spaces, and mental health support. • Support for community initiatives to address homelessness. • Learn from successful models from other cities, like Houston, where churches and non-profit agencies coordinate efforts to address homelessness.
<p>Transit and Transportation</p>	<p><i>Improve public transit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of the Scarborough SRT has dramatically cut service and increased costs of travel • Calls for more frequent and reliable TTC service, with a focus on increased safety measures and scheduled maintenance. • Increase support for the TTC, especially in underserved communities impacted by service cuts. • Lower transit fares to make it more affordable. • Free transit to support marginalized communities. • Incentivize corporations to support transit passes for employees. • Expand TTC service to reflect the 24/7 market economy. <p><i>Improve transportation infrastructure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedite transit capital projects. • Follow through with new projects, maintain street infrastructure, and improve specific services like the King streetcar. • Prioritize public transportation, including funding for TTC and bike lanes, and measures to prioritize bus movement and reduce car-related obstructions, especially in underserved areas. • Mixed opinions on bike lanes, with some advocating for building and maintaining bike lane infrastructure, others raising concerns that bike lanes will not alleviate their transportation needs and the negative impacts of removing a lane for vehicles and on-street parking. • Support for more investment in roads and infrastructure maintenance, for example, to fix potholes. • Address frustrations with driving in the city, including gridlock, parking availability, and road conditions.
<p>Intergovernmental Collaboration</p>	<p><i>Collaborate on funding housing and other services:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for long-term operational funding deals for transit and affordable housing. • Suggestions to increase funding for youth programs, and affordable housing, and pressure other levels of government for support. <p><i>Shared benefits:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions to increase funding for public health to alleviate pressure on provincial healthcare.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calls for fair funding models considering economic benefits to areas outside Toronto. <p><i>Shared responsibilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy for changes to the Provincial Community Benefits Act.• Calls for a living wage, new employment opportunities, and reducing income disparities.• Frustration with federal government immigration policies contributing to population growth and affordability crises, concerns about the rising city population outpacing available services.• Concerns about the federal government's potential threat to the retrofit program.• Concerns about the province's focus on highways over community and transit investments.• Concerns about international students facing challenges with accessing adequate healthcare and other services, finding employers who offer a visa, relying on the TTC and being recognized as taxpayers.
Taxes and Revenue Tools	<p><i>Taxes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support for increased property taxes given Toronto having lower property tax rates than other municipalities.• Support for higher vacant home taxes and luxury sales tax.• Calls for fair taxation based on updated property assessments.• Proposals to tax individuals with multiple properties, and tax out-of-province/country property buyers.• Proposals for taxes on housing appreciation profits and greenhouse gas emissions.• Calls to increase property tax on businesses and developers, raise specific city taxes for visitors, like hotels, and higher taxes on land used for private parking lots.• Proposal to bring back the vehicle registration tax.• Suggestions to tax wealthy businesses more, or to raise property taxes on the wealthy.• Proposal for property taxes on churches unless they provide community services, such as taking in refugees or offering daycare.• Concerns about potential spikes in property tax rates impacting senior citizens and retirees. <p><i>Fees, fines and charges:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposals for commercial parking levies, congestion pricing, or road tolls to manage traffic and generate revenue.• Increase revenue by adjusting parking rates and implementing paid parking to deter car usage.• Increase parking fines and a congestion fee for downtown driving.• Increase fees for permits, parking, and development charges,• Fund specific services directly from user fees (e.g., TTC from fares, libraries from members).• Fund enforcement officers and get developers to contribute more for closing lanes.• Higher parking fees and better traffic law enforcement, increase fines for infractions to address traffic safety concerns. <p><i>Funding model:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explore different and more equitable funding models.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the way HST is structured, for example, municipalities to receive a percentage of federal sales tax. • Explore alternative revenue sources like a city income tax and GST percentage. • Focus on the obligations of property developers to contribute to improvements in city services. • Address financial challenges through amalgamating garbage collection services, and reassessing property tax formulas. • Proposals for the city to borrow money at favorable rates and sell bonds to finance environmental programs.
<p>Spending and Accountability</p>	<p><i>Accountability and transparency:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for more accountability in the City's spending and eliminating wasteful spending. • Increase public engagement by providing transparent summaries/reports on fund usage and progress of city projects. • Recognition of challenges in community representation and the need for broader inclusivity in discussions. • Improve public accountability by enhancing transparency in contract awards and fund usage. • Increase transparency in the breakdown of the police budget and the need for better oversight of police spending. <p><i>Efficiencies and reallocations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition that many City services are essential, and funding cannot be reduced. • Proposals to streamline City services, avoid duplicated services, institute small user fees or privatize certain services. • Mixed opinions on police funding, with some calls for increased budgets in certain areas, while many others suggested to decrease its funding and redistribute to other safety measures, social programs, youth supports, education, and mental health support. • Concerns about the inefficiency of police in certain roles, such as traffic direction, paid-duty police officers for construction sites. • Suggestions to cut the police budget to address housing and transit needs during a time of crisis, with a recognition that address social determinants of health can act as crime prevention. • Suggestions to reallocate funds from special constables to enhance wayfinding and navigation across the entire TTC system. • Proposals for changes in fire service shifts to save money and address redundancy.
<p>Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for paramedic services to attract staff, reduce wait times, protect health. • Make public transit safe for everyone by addressing safety issues and improving service levels. • Increase funding for mental health services to address homelessness and street violence. • Support for the creation of a new budget area to fund community safety groups alongside police services. • Focus on addressing root causes of violence through investments in libraries, youth centers, and social services. • Redirect police funding to anti-hate and multicultural initiatives, and to make religious institutions safer amidst the rise of hate speech and attacks. • Calls for road safety funding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for paramedic services to address long wait times, concerns about code red situations, underserved communities, and the need for more staff to handle crisis situations.
Support Communities	<p><i>Social services:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding for community social infrastructure, including support for refugees, shelters, and community grants. • More funding for social service initiatives, mental health, harm reduction, social housing, community programs, youth education and opportunities, and initiatives supporting equity-deserving demographics. • Advocacy for the City to address social determinants of health, including student nutrition, green spaces, childcare, and the arts. • Increase accessibility for vaccinations and more prevention and education programs. • Improve sanitation and garbage pickup services. <p><i>Food security:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about food insecurity, food deserts, and lack of transportation affecting food access. • Proposals for summer food security programs, nutrition education and support for kids/youth in priority neighborhoods. <p><i>Support youth and seniors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for community grants, partnerships, and accessible youth programs. • Senior participants are apprehensive of potential cuts to long-term care facilities.
Support Businesses, Arts and Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on creating jobs and reducing the cost of living. • Small businesses could use more support in the face of gentrification and displacement. • Prioritization of funding for services that ensure equitable access, affordability, and support for local businesses. • Concerns about the impact of delays with the Eglinton Crosstown on local businesses. • Concerns about parking availability impacting local businesses. • Concerns that the rising cost of living, lack of affordable housing, and stagnant arts funding would see the displacement of the arts/culture community. • Recognition of the impact culture and tourism have on the economic health of the City, with some recommendations that tourism dollars be better captured to support arts and culture. • Recognition of the critical role of the arts sector in mental health, social cohesion, and economic growth.
Environment and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize environmental sustainability and its subsequent long-term cost-saving benefits, across various services and priorities, including housing and transit. • Apply a climate lens to the budget, with support for funding the TransformTO strategy and incentives for green building standards. • Support ongoing emphasis on treating climate change as an emergency, a focus on environmental programs and retrofit initiatives, and increased spending on climate actions, including tree canopy expansion and reducing emissions. • Calls for updating zoning and bylaw regulations to attract investments and foster climate resilience. • Recognition of the importance of environmental initiatives but suggesting that it should be prioritized at the federal level.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for a dedicated climate budget and addressing transit and housing issues through a climate lens. • Allocate budget toward community grants for environmental and climate initiatives. • City should stop allowing impermeable paving and instead support tree planning, urban farming, flood plans and protect people from heat
Public Spaces and Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in community hubs and centers, especially in underserved areas. • Invest in libraries as multifunctional community spaces, which provide more than just book-related services. • Support for free public art programming to animate public spaces. • Invest in community infrastructure, including bike lanes, washrooms in parks, and valuable community assets like Centennial Park. • Support for parks as essential outdoor spaces for mental and physical health, especially for families and newcomers. • Prioritize programs that support social connection and wellness, including sports and recreational activities. • Frustrations with private sports leagues, paying very little for permits and profiting from the use of public recreation spaces, while preventing community members from using the same facilities.

3. Major Themes from Community-Led Discussions

This table includes a sample of ideas shared at the community-led discussions in collaboration with the Community Coordination Plan. Ideas are paraphrased to summarize similar comments and themes.

Theme	Summarized Comments from Community-Led Discussions
Housing and Shelters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic housing investments, in and beyond TCHC, are needed to address the emerging needs in Black communities and other communities. • Housing affordability is most important for many newcomers and underserved communities. • Shelters need sufficient funding to be safe and help people transition to housing, otherwise people leave shelters and live on streets. • Regulation on rent control, more unit inspections.
Transit and Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow removal on side streets and sidewalks has declined and makes it challenging to get around. • Combination of construction and poor TTC service in north Etobicoke impacts people's ability to get to work and student's ability to get to school - need more frequent service to support people. • Could City support use of school buses outside of school hours as public transportation options for residents?
Intergovernmental Collaboration	<p><i>Collaborate on funding housing and other services:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with other levels of government to provide financial access to affordable housing, financial literacy for people who want to learn how to invest, and further education on how to buy housing. • Work with the Provincial and Federal governments to regulate food prices, address homelessness, increase mental health supports, apply rent control more broadly, and increase job opportunities. <p><i>Shared responsibilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal and provincial governments should definitely step up to pay for their responsibilities. • Most participants interested in speaking with their councillors, MPs and MPPs about getting more money from other levels of government.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City should advocate for representation from the Black community at all levels of government to address anti-Black racism and support collaboration and negotiation. • Important that Canada can accept refugees, but more federal money is required to support Toronto to house and provide services to them, having settlement plans and supports is important.
Taxes and Revenue Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for higher land transfer taxes for high-value properties and more taxes for commercial businesses.
Spending and Accountability	<p><i>Accountability and transparency:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police accountability is needed, especially when they request budget increases. • More transparency is needed in the City's decision-making processes, especially in budget allocation. • The City should be more collaborative with community organizations in consultations on budget and service priorities, and ensure that overlooked and unheard voices such as youth and seniors are not overshadowed by other voices. • Concerned that underserved communities will lose services and funding if City makes cuts. Council should maintain or increase fundings to communities in need and look to other neighbourhoods to carry more of the burden of service cuts. <p><i>Efficiencies and reallocations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure social supports such as Ontario Works are being appropriately administered to reduce waste and encourage people to work. • There is a lot of waste: money should be better managed, and collaboration with agencies could be more efficient for costs and service delivery.
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads are unsafe - poor condition, terrible driving, non-existent snow removal, no enforcement of jay-walking by-laws. • City needs to increase enforcement of by-laws for apartment buildings including elevators, security and general maintenance so buildings are safe. • City must find a way to limit the number of cannabis stores in neighbourhoods. • Reallocate funds for policing to training for officers and services for mental health, to make transit and neighbourhoods. • Many voiced disappointment that Toronto Police are still one of the most funded services in the City Budget, despite so much community advocacy to decrease it. Many feel unsafe with current policing approaches and support reallocating funding to new community crisis response program.
Support Communities	<p><i>Support youth and seniors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community grants to support programs for youths are critical, for example, the Rexdale Hub is an essential service in North Etobicoke. • Toronto Youth Cabinet (downtown) suggested more youth hubs in every Neighbourhood Improvement Area, many lack resources such as Bleecker Street and Moss Park. • Youth services and youth violence prevention programs should be a priority, and need to be long-term and support their growth. • Aging population means more seniors need more access to long-term care homes in a timely manner. <p><i>Food security and cost of living:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was emphasis on how our city is in a dire affordability crisis, and the City should increase funding for food security initiatives, programs and organizations as well as poverty reduction, including funding for access to food banks and housing supports.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants felt that every service is important and expressed frustration at the high cost of living including rent, parking, child care and food. <p><i>Work with communities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City needs to invest more in Black communities and work with the community and Black-led organizations to address range of challenges and advance opportunities. • Ensure gains for Black communities are protected in upcoming budget cycles. • City support is critical for newcomers to settle, find employment and access public services available to them. • There is a huge gap when it comes to building an inclusive community for people with disabilities and their families and caregivers. The City should invest and partner more with organizations to enhance training, build understanding, create integrated and separate programs and offer respite centres for families.
Support Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City should use zoning and other incentives to support more manufacturing businesses that provide good jobs, rather than businesses that provide only service jobs. • Need more jobs, especially for youth. Can City provide businesses with grants or other programs to support hiring? • Partner with local organizations to deliver services and fund organizations to create local employment opportunities.
Public Spaces and Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More investment in libraries and community centres to support training programs, youth services and employment, student study space and other activities. • Portable and permanent washroom facilities in parks and other public spaces make a big difference for all residents. • There was broad support from participants to increase funding for community centres and community spaces, parks, and recreational programming.

Attachment B. Sample Slides from Public Presentation

Operating and Capital Budgets

Operating Budget

- Single Year Plan to deliver City services and programs
- Annual cost of providing services such as:
 - recreation programs
 - waste and recycling collection
 - child-care
 - public health
 - emergency services
 - park maintenance
 - Bylaw enforcement

10 Year Capital Plan & Budget

- Multi-Year Plan for renewal and creation of capital assets needed to deliver the City services.
- Total costs of constructing, improving, or extending the useful life of:
 - Building and equipment

Municipalities must balance their budgets so

Where Your Taxes and Fees Go

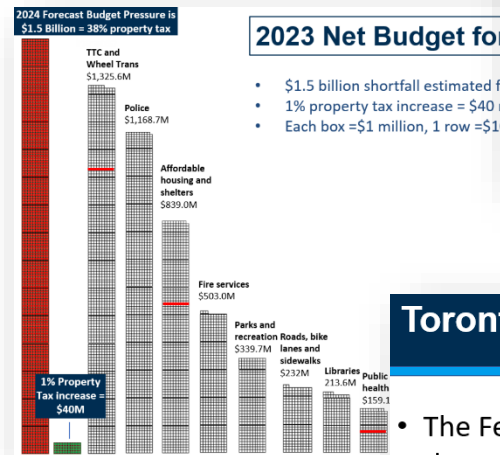
Category	Percentage	Amount
Federal/Provincial funding for services delivered by the City	22%	\$3.43 B
Property Tax and dedicated levies	32%	\$4.91 B
Land Transfer Tax	6%	\$0.95 B
User Fees	25%	\$3.89 B
Other	14%	\$2.16 B

Federal Gov 47%

Provincial Gov 44%

Municipal Gov 9%

All Taxes and Fees



Toronto needs a New Deal

- The Federal and Provincial governments have the tools to raise money - and different responsibilities - but it is cities who deliver critical and costly services such as transit, housing and shelters.
- Toronto needs fair contributions and full funding in recognition of Toronto's unique contributions to the region, province and nation.