



**Tuesday March 19, 2024**

Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N2

**RE: IE11.8 - Requiring Fair Payment from For-Profit Gas Utilities for Use of City Property**

Dear Members of Toronto City Council,

**Toronto Environmental Alliance is writing in support of Item IE11.8 - Requiring Fair Payment from For-Profit Gas Utilities for Use of City Property**

Toronto's TransformTO Net Zero plan calls for the complete phase-out of natural gas by 2040. By more effectively requiring fossil fuel companies to pay for the costs of their infrastructure in our city, Toronto can work towards this goal while simultaneously bringing in new revenue streams to fund climate action and other critical city priorities.

A recent letter from Councillor Saxe indicates there is a very strong likelihood that the City of Toronto is subsidizing private fossil fuel companies for the use of City property and services for fossil gas infrastructure, including both the underground use of City property, as well as the repair and maintenance of the publicly-owned infrastructure such as roads and sidewalks that sit atop the underground fossil gas infrastructure. Municipalities across Canada levy significant charges on privately-owned fossil gas infrastructure. In Edmonton, for example, revenue from gas pipeline fees represent as much as 5.3% of the city's annual consolidated operating revenue.

We strongly support the production of a report that fully assesses the costs to the City of providing any such subsidies. This report should also look at revenue powers within the City's jurisdiction to recover the costs of fossil fuel infrastructure activities.

We also call on the City to explore raising the rates for fossil fuel pipeline infrastructure and to use that revenue to fund building retrofit and decarbonization projects to help Toronto meet its TransformTO Net Zero goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'How-Sen Chong', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

How-Sen Chong  
Climate Campaigner  
Toronto Environmental Alliance