

December 15, 2025

**RE: EX28.5 - Progress and Priorities for Enhancing Toronto's Climate Resilience**

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of the TEA, I would like to applaud the work that has been done to date on the Climate Change Resilience Workplan, and the direction to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for Toronto.

Municipalities across Canada have developed, or are in the process of developing, climate adaptation strategies. We urgently need a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for Toronto to keep our communities safe as we increasingly experience extreme weather and climate-related hazards, as outlined in Toronto's Climate Risks: Understanding Vulnerability Today, Preparing for Tomorrow (Attachment 1).

**This is a tremendous opportunity to launch a city-building project that unites us around a shared vision and goals.** Our experience in working with our partner, Community Resilience to Extreme Weather (CREW), in St. James Town on the *Neighbourhood Heat Wave Response Project* has shown us that climate resilience work has multiple benefits including: building local leadership capacity, residents forming mutually supportive relationships with their neighbours, and creating community preparedness for different types of emergencies. In addition, this work helps residents build deeper relationships with the City of Toronto and community agencies, as we come together to develop solutions.

The City's experience with TransformTO serves as a strong foundation for developing an Adaptation Action Plan. While TransformTO is a City-led initiative, the work done during its inception and foundational stages enabled the plan to be shaped by residents, grassroots groups, and community organizations in collaboration with the City, not just obtain "input" or secure "buy-in". Examples include: engagement strategies that were co-created by the City and community partners to reach new audiences and a Modelling Advisory Group composed of City staff from different divisions and representatives from community organizations. This is a key reason why public support for TransformTO continues to be strong. We hope that the process of developing the Adaptation Action Plan will build on these good practices and lessons learned from TransformTO.

However, we must also note there are important ways in which the City can do better this time. As has been previously acknowledged, TransformTO did not centre relationships and decision-making with Indigenous rights holders from the onset. This report identifies that the City's climate resilience work is an opportunity for the City to build on its subsequent work, and uphold and implement the commitments the City has made in adopting the Reconciliation Action Plan and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We firmly believe that climate adaptation requires an all-of-City approach, and we are pleased to see the clear focus on interdivisional roles, responsibilities and accountabilities in this report. As the report indicates: "Climate Resilience is a multi-systems challenge and opportunity that often requires participation of a large number of City Divisions." We are encouraged to note that an Oversight Table for Climate Resilience, composed of City Division Heads with representation from each City service area, will be established in 2026.

Lastly, as described in Community-Informed Climate Resilience (Attachment 5), climate equity and climate justice must be the key principles underlying Toronto's approach to climate resilience. This is why bringing forward a strong plan to enable Toronto's communities to participate in developing the Adaptation Action Plan, especially those most impacted by extreme weather, is critical. This must include clearly identifying which elements of the plan can be *shaped* together with communities.

We look forward to collaborating with the City of Toronto, together with community partners, on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Emmay Mah  
Executive Director  
Toronto Environmental Alliance