



Alejandra Bravo

CITY COUNCILLOR
WARD 9 • DAVENPORT

CHAIR, ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

February 11, 2025

RE: MM24.2 – Investing in Youth, Empowering Out City’s Potential: Creation of a Toronto Youth Employment Program (Referred to Committee)

Dear Members of Economic and Community Development Committee,

Youth unemployment is a serious concern for our city. I welcome the Member Motion from Councillor Kandavel and Councillor Myers, which was brought forward to Council in December and referred to our Committee for consideration, to explore the creation of a Toronto Youth Employment Strategy, in partnership with the advocacy and research from members of the Toronto Youth Cabinet.

Across divisions, agencies, and boards, the City of Toronto currently offers an array of programs targeted towards youth employment. Under the City’s Youth Outcomes Framework, the City has a set of key outcomes for youth employment programs, including improvements to ensure participation for equity-deserving youth. The City’s Action Plan for Toronto’s Economy includes a target of establishing 10,000 summer jobs for young people by 2026.

Current economic and political uncertainties, including tariffs and trade changes, have raised questions about employment impacts for all age groups and for our City’s economic growth and stability. At this time, I would advise the City take stock of existing youth employment programs, consider alignment with federal and provincial youth job initiatives, and ensure alignment with other key City commitments and strategies, as a first step of this important work on addressing youth unemployment in Toronto.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Economic and Community Development Committee:

1. Refer the item to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration for further consideration, with a request to consult relevant City partners and include the following as part the Year One Progress Report on the Action Plan for Toronto's Economy:
 - a. An inventory of existing City of Toronto youth employment programs;

- b. Opportunities and resources required, including intergovernmental funding, for new or expanded City of Toronto youth employment programs, in order to achieve the target of 10,000 summer jobs for young people by 2026; and,
- c. Alignment of youth employment definitions, objectives and targets with City commitments, including but not limited to: Inclusive Economic Development Framework, and Poverty Reduction Strategy.



Alejandra Bravo
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Chair, Economic & Community Development Committee