



OLIVIA CHOW
MAYOR

May 6, 2025

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

Summers in Toronto are getting hotter and hotter. For many living in older high-rise apartment buildings that lack air conditioning, the heat can be dangerous. Seniors in particular face higher health risks when facing extreme heat.

Tenant and environmental advocacy groups have proposed a number of ways to protect seniors and vulnerable people from extreme heat. One of these ideas is very simple: where possible, provide air conditioning units to low-income seniors who need relief.

The report I am recommending does just that. The attached *Air Conditioner Pilot Program for Low-Income Seniors* report will develop and implement a pilot program, ahead of summer 2025, to expand access to air conditioning for low-income seniors living in apartment buildings in Toronto.

With the funding set aside in my 2025 budget, we can deliver and install about 500 air conditioning units to support low-income seniors this year. This is a fast, cost-effective and caring way to protect seniors from extreme heat.

Recommendation:

Mayor Chow recommends that:

1. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee introduce and consider the attached staff report from the Executive Director, Environment, Climate, and Forestry and the Executive Director, Social Development, as new business at its meeting of May 7, 2025.

Sincerely,

Olivia Chow,
Mayor

Attachment 1: Report from Executive Director, Environment, Climate and Forestry and
Interim Executive Director, Social Development on Air Conditional Pilot Program for
Low-Income Seniors