



Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN!) Toronto

February 10, 2025

TO: Toronto City Council; Clerk

Re: Mayor's Proposed Budget – Council Meeting 27 February 11, 2025

Item: MBP 27.1

Mayor Chow and City Councillors,
City of Toronto

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

We are writing as Seniors for Climate Action Now!, Toronto Chapter, representing some 242 members living in Toronto and part of one of the fastest growing environmental volunteer groups in Canada (SCAN!), with over 800 senior members.

SCAN! Toronto members made deputations to Budget Committee meetings in different parts of the city, and entered written submissions, with detailed requests and revenue suggestions. At this time, we would like to draw your attention to three key positions.

We support the 6.9 percent property tax increase

After too many years when low property tax increases were prioritized, this increase is reasonable and responsible to generate revenue for much needed critical services and infrastructure. Decisions that make the city more liveable are good investments.

We support the climate positive initiatives in the budget

We acknowledge and support initiatives in the budget that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the city's resilience to climate change, including: an increased TTC operating budget allowing for a TTC fare freeze and additional service hours; the new bulk buy heat pump program; and, capital expenditures to help deal with floods and extreme weather. These initiatives improve quality of life in the short term and make the city more sustainable for the future.

We advocate for bolder action and funding to support climate initiatives

Toronto residents have experienced flooding, increased extreme heat days, and forest fire smoke. They are anxious about how the heating planet will impact their lives and the lives of their children. Budget decisions and City initiatives and activities must be viewed through a climate lens. TransformTO is a strong climate action plan but adequate funding is required across sectors to meet its targets and achieve net zero by 2040.

We recognize that budget decisions are complex and many important and urgent priorities must be weighed in the balance. We argue, however, that failing to adequately fund climate solutions in the short term will have serious implications for livability in the city in the not-so-distant future. We request that you keep this critical consideration in mind in striving to create and maintain a healthy, equitable and safe city for all.

Sincerely,

Shelly Gordon on behalf of Seniors for Climate Action Now (SCAN!) Toronto