

councilmeeting

From: Melissa Wong <mwong@socialplanningtoronto.org>
Sent: February 10, 2025 2:49 PM
To: councilmeeting; Mayor Chow; Councillor Crisanti; Councillor Holyday; Councillor Morley; Councillor Perks; Councillor Nunziata; Councillor Pasternak; Councillor Perruzza; Councillor Colle8; Councillor Bravo; Councillor Malik; Councillor Saxe; Councillor Matlow; Councillor Moise; Councillor Fletcher; Councillor Burnside; Councillor Carroll; Councillor Cheng; Councillor Bradford; Councillor Thompson; Councillor Mantas; Councillor Myers; Councillor Ainslie; Councillor McKelvie; Councillor Kandavel; Councillor Chernos Lin
Cc: Jin Huh
Subject: [External Sender] Re: MPB27.1 - We Need Toronto City Council to Fund Our City!
Categories: Communication (Supp)

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

The 2025 City Budget builds on the record level of new investments included in last year's budget. We recognize and appreciate the important work that the Mayor, the Budget Committee, and all members of Council have been doing to increase investments in critical services and infrastructure.

Across the city, Toronto residents are grappling with the high cost of rent, food and other essentials, and the dire shortage of affordable housing. More than a quarter of Toronto's children are now living in poverty. Far too many of our neighbours are unhoused, with hundreds unable to access even a shelter bed at night. Community organizations are under pressure to meet the growing demand for services, with limited resources to do so.

We urge City Council to dig deeper to **invest more** in programs and services that prioritize upstream initiatives that enhance neighbourhoods and address the root causes of poverty, namely:

- protecting **tenants** facing homelessness, safeguarding and expanding **affordable housing**, assisting **unhoused residents** (particularly women+ and people with disabilities), boosting drop-in services, reducing homelessness, and supporting our neighbours and workers affected by the provincial closure of **supervised consumption sites**;
- supporting **community-based agencies**, specifically grassroots groups and organizations focused on Black, Indigenous, and other racialized and newcomer communities, including **expanding access to employment, training and mentoring opportunities for youth**;
- Making life better for **low-income families and workers** by investing in the school **food program**, increasing **childcare** subsidies, freezing **transit** fares and **recreation** fees, expanding **library** hours with staffing levels to meet the needs of our communities, and ensuring **workers** in recreation, long-term care, and child care are adequately paid.

Many of us, alongside the residents we serve, participated in pre-budget consultations and Budget Committee deputations, sharing the very real impact of living in an unaffordable city. What we see in this year's proposed budget is a clear commitment to investing in the programs that matter most to those struggling to make ends meet.

As organizations rooted in our communities, **we are calling on all members of City Council to support the Mayor's budget**, including the 6.9% property tax increase and the service enhancements, and to maximize all available resources to further support our most marginalized neighbours. The property tax increase is set at a reasonable and responsible rate and will be essential for supporting critical programs, particularly with the

expansion of the property tax relief and water and solid waste rebate programs for low- to moderate-income seniors and people with disabilities.

As Canada faces a potential trade war, we know that low-income communities and workers—and the community organizations that work with them—will be feeling the impacts most acutely, and will be relying on the City to deliver strong municipal services and funding for the sector.

On February 11, City Council has an opportunity to build a better, more affordable, more equitable, sustainable, and livable city. Communities are counting on your leadership.

Signed,

Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

ACSA Community Services

Bangladeshi-Canadian Community Services (BCS)

Centre for Immigrant and Community Services

ClimateFast

College-Montrose Children's Place

CUPE Local 79

Daily Bread Food Bank

Don Valley Community Legal Services

ECULINKS

Emmanuel Life Management Centre

Etobicoke Services for Seniors (ESS Support Services)

Fairlawn Avenue United Church

Faith in the City

Family Service Toronto

Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations

Flemingdon Health Centre

FoodShare Torontot

GTA Disability Coalition

Malvern Family Resource Centre

MCIS Language Solutions

North York Community House

North York Harvest Food Bank

OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants

Ontario Campaign 2000

Operation Springboard

PARC

Policing-Free Schools

Ralph Thornton Community Centre

Right to Housing Toronto (R2HTO)

Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities (SCHC)

SHJN

Social Planning Toronto

South Asian Women's Rights Organization

The Neighbourhood Organization

The Yonge Street Mission

TNG Community Services

Toronto & York Region Labour Council

Toronto Community Benefits Network

Toronto Drop-In Network

Toronto Environmental Alliance

Toronto Neighbourhood Centres
Toronto350
TTCriders
West Neighbourhood House
Yonge Street Mission
YWCA Toronto

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