

January 21, 2026

**TO:**

Mayor Chow and City Councillors  
Prime Minister Carney and Members of Parliament in Toronto  
Premier Ford and Members of Provincial Parliament in Toronto



**FROM:**

The Downtown Toronto BIA Alliance

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**RE: SUPPORT FOR CITY OF TORONTO'S 2026 BUDGET  
AND CONTINUED TRI-GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT DOWNTOWN  
TORONTO AS A CRITICAL PILLAR OF CANADA'S ECONOMY**

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As the City of Toronto sets its budget for 2026, the Downtown Toronto BIA Alliance (DTBIAA) is calling on the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to align with and support funding for initiatives for the continued growth, vibrancy, and competitiveness of the Toronto's downtown core—one of Canada's most important economic generators.

Economic uncertainty creates an opportunity for all levels of government to reinvest in the future of Canada's economy. As the country, Province and City face these new challenges, governments must protect and invest in our future.

The Downtown Toronto BIA Alliance consists of six downtown Business Improvement Areas that jointly released a report in 2025, [The Importance of Collaborative Investment in Downtown Toronto](#).

The DTBIAA appreciates and supports the priorities highlighted in this year's City of Toronto Budget, especially regarding:

- An increase of \$237 million for enhancing emergency services;
- 258 new emergency positions to increase response times;
- \$170 million for transit; and
- The roll-out of enhanced crisis services on transit.

*Our requests for support and alignment from all three levels of government:*

- **The case for Federal and Provincial investment and growth-based revenue tools for the City of Toronto.** Downtown Toronto generates \$117 billion in GDP and \$39.5 billion in tax revenue annually, but only 9% is reinvested in Toronto. Additionally, Toronto does not benefit from taxes generated by workers and visitors living outside the city who utilize the City's infrastructure at little to no cost. This is the time for other levels of government to support growth-based revenue tools for the City of Toronto to ensure it remains Canada's economic generator.

- **Funding for safety, policing, and mental health supports remain crucial.** Safety is the top of the list of survey respondents as a reason for not going downtown, and perceptions of safety on TTC transit specifically are a continuing issue. While we have seen improvements in the last year, continued funds are required to address policing requirements, homelessness, addiction, mental health and affordable housing challenges. While the DTBIAA is pleased to see increase funding for emergency services and transit crisis response, we remain concerned about potential cuts to Toronto Shelter & Support Services.

Toronto Police Services and other mental health and housing support programs require adequate funding support to address Downtown Toronto's unique situation as home to Canada's largest events, largest transit network, largest demonstrations, as well as the largest workforce in the country.

Proactive and multi-disciplinary teams that work to address street-based mental health and addictions challenges are critically needed downtown. The CORE Pilot currently underway in the Yonge-Dundas neighbourhood, led by Toronto Public Health and supported by the Toronto Police Service is a program that deserves to be extended and expanded.

- **Congestion management is a critical concern to businesses and residents.** Toronto has the country's largest transit system, and the largest workforce that can benefit from high-value public transit to get cars off the road. Supporting Toronto's transit operations and state of good repair priorities must be a nation-wide priority.

Significant investment is required to ensure safe, reliable, and adequate transit service in downtown and throughout the city. Transit expansion, including the Waterfront Rapid Transit expansion on the eastern waterfront, is critical to future congestion management. Implementation of smart transportation technologies, including automated enforcement, will also be required.

- **Future planning for business attraction and tourism is a high priority to ensure Toronto remains an attractive destination.** Investment from all levels of government will be required to support the expansion of Metro Toronto Convention Centre and the recruitment of tourism. Toronto will also be Canada's face to the world with the FIFA World Cup, and costs and expense of the games must not fall unfairly on the City of Toronto.

## ABOUT THE TORONTO DOWNTOWN BIA ALLIANCE

The Downtown Toronto BIA Alliance (DTBIAA) is a coalition of six Business Improvement Areas working together to champion the vitality, innovation, and economic resilience of Toronto's core. Representing Bloor-Yorkville BIA, Downtown Yonge BIA, Old Town Toronto BIA, Toronto Downtown West BIA, Toronto Financial District BIA, and the Waterfront BIA, the DTBIAA advocates for policies, partnerships, and investments that enhance public space, support local businesses, and foster inclusive urban growth. Through collaboration and leadership, the DTBIAA ensures downtown Toronto remains a vibrant, world-class destination to live, work, and visit.

- Website: [www.DTBIAA.ca](http://www.DTBIAA.ca)
- 2025 Report: [The Importance of Collaborative Investment in Downtown Toronto](#)

Please feel free to contact [tkocur@waterfrontbia.com](mailto:tkocur@waterfrontbia.com) if our group can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Old Town Toronto BIA

*Amy Harrell*  
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Carbon copy to: Paul Johnson, City Manager