

Hon. Ali Ehsassi, Member of Parliament (MP)

📍 115 Sheppard Ave. W.
North York, Ontario
M2N 1M7

☎ 416-223-2858

✉ ali.ehsassi@parl.gc.ca



Hon. Stan Cho, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)

📍 111 Sheppard Ave. W.
North York, Ontario
M2N 1M7

☎ 416-733-7878

✉ stan.cho@ontario.ca



Councillor Lily Cheng, City Councillor

📍 5100 Yonge St.
North York, Ontario
M2N 5V7

☎ 416-392-0210

✉ councillor_cheng@toronto.ca



March 24, 2026

Her Worship Olivia Chow, Mayor of Toronto and Toronto City Council
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Dear Her Worship Olivia Chow and Toronto City Council,

The future of North York Centre presents a unique opportunity for Toronto to demonstrate bold, visionary planning, strengthening a downtown in North York that not only accommodates growth but enhances our vibrant economic and cultural hub. With an anticipated addition of 100,000 residents over the next 25 years, this growth must be matched with proactive investments in infrastructure, transit, schools, and community amenities.

We write today to reaffirm our shared commitment to collaboration between all levels of government to ensure that updates to the North York Centre Secondary Plan are paired with the strategic infrastructure needed to support this growth. North York Centre is an extraordinary transit-oriented community, served by two subway lines and soon to be better connected to York Region via the joint investment from both the federal and provincial governments for the Yonge North Subway Extension of Line 1. This high level of connectivity underpins our potential as a thriving downtown core for business, culture, and residential life.

As representatives of this amazing community, we know why so many people want to live, work, and play here. We are proud to represent North York Centre, and we want to ensure that growth is thoughtful, supported, and enhances the community we love.

The City's planning review recognizes the importance of these areas, but planning for density alone is not enough. Growth must be supported by intentional investments that create a livable, accessible, and sustainable downtown. These developments can only happen if there is strong collaboration across all three levels of government. This includes:

- Expanding parks, recreation, and cultural facilities to foster a vibrant community;
- Improving transportation infrastructure;

- Ensuring schools, healthcare, and emergency response services scale with population growth; and,
- Supporting economic development to position North York Centre as a growing hub for work, arts, and culture.

Current investments provide a foundation to support this growth, including:

Federal Initiatives:

- **Housing Accelerator Fund:** \$4.44 billion over 5 years to remove municipal barriers and accelerate a variety of housing initiatives, including \$461 million for Toronto to support building new homes;
- **Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund:** \$6 billion for the construction and upgrading of core public infrastructure to enable housing growth;
- **Canada Public Transit Fund:** \$30 billion for new transit, faster commutes, reduced emissions, and supporting growing communities;
- **The Build Communities Strong Fund:** A \$51 billion investment over 10 years, followed by \$3 billion per year ongoing, to revitalize local infrastructure and drive economic growth.

Provincial Initiatives:

- **Ontario Building Faster Fund:** \$1.2 billion over three years for housing-enabling infrastructure in Toronto, including \$67.2 million in 2025 for 2024 housing starts;
- **School expansions:** 69 new spaces at McKee Public School, 192 at Hollywood Public School, and a brand-new school with classrooms and daycare at St. Antoine Daniel Catholic School;
- **Healthcare improvements:** North York General Hospital expansion with a new In-Patient Care Tower, long-term care home, and new emergency/birthing facilities;
- **Primary Care Plan:** Connecting every Ontarian to a family doctor or care practitioner, starting with Willowdale.

Municipal Initiatives:

- **Housing TO Plan:** The City of Toronto has committed approximately \$6.4 billion since 2020 and is continuing to deliver on its commitments under the \$461 million Housing Accelerator Fund agreement (HAF) to facilitate the creation of approximately 60,980 net new permitted residential homes from 2024-2026.
- **New Supportive Housing:** 59-unit building operated by Woodgreen at 185 Cummer Avenue opening Summer 2026;
- **Upcoming New Shelter:** Future Indigenous Women and Children's shelter at 68 Sheppard Avenue West;

- **Community Space Expansion:** Upcoming 20,000 square foot community-operated community centre (Association of Community Centres);
- **Recent and Upcoming New Parks and Upgrades:** Holmes Park Phases 1 and 2, Silverview Park, Willowdale Park, Wedgewood Park, Moore Park, Gwendolen Park, Caswell Park, Debell Lane Park, Goulding Park, Edithvale Park, John McKenzie Parkette Expansion;
- **Participatory Budgeting Projects:** \$3 million in local capital projects throughout Newtonbrook East, Newtonbrook West, Willowdale East, Willowdale West, Avondale and West Lansing Neighbourhoods;
- **Major Transportation Projects:** Beecroft & Doris Extension, Transform Yonge and 401 Interchange (in collaboration with the Ontario Government);
- **School Playground Upgrades:** \$650,000 towards upgrades at St. Cyril Catholic School, Hollywood Public School, Avondale Public School and St. Gabriel Catholic School

We urge Toronto to direct a meaningful portion of funding allocated by all three levels of government toward North York Centre to ensure the neighbourhood can absorb growth thoughtfully and sustainably. We look forward to collaborating on projects that can be brought to funding-ready condition, including:

- A visionary refresh that creates a landmark at Mel Lastman Square that is designed together with the surrounding streetscape, making North York Centre a true destination.
- A plan for a new community centre, childcare facilities, and park expansions, to make the community more walkable and complete.

Our shared goal is to create a North York Centre that is not only a home for new residents but also a destination for businesses, culture, and community life. By working collaboratively, we can pave the pathway for a truly visionary downtown North York, one that balances density with quality of life, supports existing residents, and sets the stage for generations to come.

We look forward to partnering to realize this vision, ensuring that North York Centre continues to be a thriving, connected, and forward-thinking urban centre that Toronto can be proud of.

Sincerely,



Hon. Ali Ehsassi
MP for Willowdale



Hon. Stan Cho
MPP for Willowdale



Lily Cheng
City Councillor