

Delivering an affordable, caring & safe city

Mayor Olivia Chow 2026 Budget



A Letter from Mayor Olivia Chow



Dear Residents of Toronto,

Budget 2026 is about making life more affordable for people.

I think of Natasha, mother of two teenage twins and a pre-teen daughter. She told me she's feeling the pressure of how expensive life has become. Her grocery bill to feed her kids has doubled, and it keeps climbing.

I think of Maria, in Scarborough. She works long shifts as a Personal Support Worker, then takes a long bus ride home to take care of her elderly mom. Her life is stressful managing the cost of her home, groceries, transit and taking care of her loved ones.

Some families face even harder choices. One in four people using Toronto food banks right now is a child. People are making impossible choices between paying rent and buying food. Seniors are skipping meals to afford their medications.

When I built this budget, I had one question in mind: how do we help people like Natasha and Maria? This is my answer: we make Toronto more affordable for families and we ask the wealthiest to pay their fair share.

Here's what this means for you.

If you have two kids, our universal school food program saves your family \$900 a year on groceries. Every child gets free, healthy meals at school which means one less thing to pack, and no more worrying if your kids have enough to eat. We're also providing free meals to 115,000 kids at City-run camps.

We're freezing TTC fares at \$3.30, the same price as three years ago when I took office. This saves a working couple \$300 a year. Between school meals and frozen fares alone, that's \$1,200 back in your family's budget. Money for rent. Money for bills. Money for anything your family needs.

If you're a senior living on a fixed income, we're ending the three-year waitlist for help at home through the Homemakers and Nurses program. If you need support with cleaning, cooking, or personal care, you'll get it right away not three years from now. And if you earn under \$62,000, you can defer or cancel your property tax increase, saving up to \$818 this year.

If you rent, we've doubled funding for help when you can't make rent. We're hiring more inspectors to make landlords keep buildings safe. We're funding legal support so they can't push you out illegally.

If you own a home, we're helping you protect it from flooding with up to \$6,650 for sump pumps and backwater valves. We're offering low-cost loans to replace your furnace or upgrade your home. These improvements lower your energy bills and increase your home's value.

Every library in Toronto is now open seven days a week. That's 100 free spaces where your family can gather, learn, and stay warm without paying a cent to get through the door.

Here's how we're paying for this.

When I took office, Toronto had a \$1.8 billion budget hole. I didn't create it, but I took responsibility for fixing it. We made hard choices. We found \$788 million in savings this year while protecting services. Now, for the first time in 23 years, our credit rating has been upgraded to AA+, one of the strongest in North America. That saves taxpayers money.

We've also made Toronto's tax system more fair. The Vacant Homes Tax and Luxury Homes Tax bring in \$250 million from people who leave homes empty and buyers of the most expensive properties. That's a quarter billion dollars coming from those who can afford it most instead of from families struggling to get by.

Your property tax increase this year is 2.2%, below the rate of inflation.

We're building the city Natasha and Maria deserve. A city where Maria can get to the people she cares for more easily.

Shovels are in the ground right now on thousands of affordable rental homes. Construction finished on the Gardiner Expressway 18 months ahead of schedule. Downtown traffic travel times dropped 13% last year.

Toronto is getting safer. We had fewer murders in 2025 than any year in the past 50 years. Shootings dropped 43%. Youth violence is down 40%. When you call 911, your call is answered 75% faster than it was two years ago. We moved over 4,400 people living rough outdoors into housing last year, and encampments dropped by 64%.

A city is a promise we make to each other: if you work here, you should be able to afford to live here. If you need help, we'll be there. If you're raising kids, they'll have what they need to thrive.

This budget keeps that promise. Together, we're building a more affordable, caring, and safe Toronto—for you, for Natasha, Maria, for all of us.

Sincerely,

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

Making life more affordable

The 2026 budget is designed to help Toronto families save money on everyday expenses. If you have two children, our school food program and TTC fare freeze alone will save your family \$1,200 this year.

Universal school meals: saving families on groceries

Many Torontonians find it challenging to keep up with the rising cost of groceries bills. By investing in the school food program we are bringing families relief on their grocery bill. According to analysis by the Federal government, this can save families \$88 per month, \$800 to \$900 per school year.

Since 2023, we have boosted base funding for school food programs by over 80%. The City has invested over \$16 million to bring new schools on board, including funding for kitchen upgrades and appliances that will have lasting benefits for school communities. In 2025, we brought new morning meal programs to 73 schools, feeding 25,000 more kids.

The 2026 budget expands morning meals to another 155 schools feeding 62,000 more students. This budget supports our plan to provide meals in every school across the City this year, providing nutritious morning meals to 330,000 students across the city.

School food programs are more than an investment in students. Studies show every \$1 invested in school food programming generates over \$3 in economic return. Our school food spending creates local jobs and directly supports Ontario farmers, including apples from Durham Region, pears from Niagara, carrots from Thorndale and milk and dairy products from around the Province

We're working with community partners and other governments to build a smart school food program that costs taxpayers less. Through bulk-buying and centralized distribution, schools will be able to access food at much lower prices.

Free meals at all City camps

The high cost of groceries for families doesn't disappear at the end of the school year. That's why we are funding free meals in all 185 City-run March break and summer camps. That means financial relief for parents, and nutritious meals every day of camp for 115,000 kids.

Ride more, pay less: Making the TTC more affordable

Freezing fares

We have not raised TTC fares for three years in a row, saving a working couple \$300 per year. While saving you money, we're also increasing service levels so trains, buses and streetcars come more frequently. We're working to reverse the decline caused by previous administrations who raised your fares while cutting transit service.

Capping your TTC monthly costs

For too many people, it's a stretch to pay for your monthly pass at the same time your rent is due. Fare capping is an automatic monthly pass for everyone, once you hit the cap your subsequent rides are free. This is another way that the city can make life a little more affordable.

In September of this year, our budget delivers the first phase of fare capping at 47 rides per month. This is equal to the current cost of a monthly TTC pass, eliminating the need to pay upfront for one. This budget also includes a multi-year plan to bring the fare cap down to 40 rides per month in 2027. That means forty rides a month, then it's free. Someone who commutes to work each day will have free trips in the evenings and on weekends.

More free spaces for families by expanding library hours

Libraries are free spaces for families, with free programming for people of all ages. For three years running we have expanded library hours, and starting this year, every Toronto Public Library branch is open seven days a week. With many locations offering extended hours into the evening, families have even more flexibility to use them after work and school.

It's clear people love their libraries. From October to December last year, there were over 230,000 Sunday visits to libraries. Torontonians also borrowed over 180,000 materials on Sundays, a 54% increase.

Every library has free programs, from baby time sing-a-longs, to youth hubs for teens, to digital literacy classes for seniors. It's free and for everyone. That's the magic of the Toronto Public Library.



Protecting renters

Half of all Torontonians rent their homes. Big, unexpected rent increases, illegal evictions and landlords who ignore repairs are making people feel less secure, pushing people out of their homes or forcing them to pay more than they can afford.

The 2026 budget delivers real protections for renters so they can rely on a safe and affordable place to live for years to come.

Safe, well-maintained homes

Landlords are supposed to keep your building in good repair, but when they don't the City can step in. RentSafeTO officers proactively inspects homes to make sure they are in good repair and that renters' concerns are heard by their landlords. RentSafeTO officers have the authority to support tenants by making landlords fix problems, and this year we're hiring more of them.

The 2026 budget funds 73 RentSafeTO by-law officers, up from 36 in 2023. That's double the number of people making sure your building is safe. Further, RentSafeTO is adding colour-coded signs on apartment buildings to hold landlords accountable and ensure they offer quality apartments for renters.

Help when you can't make rent

Missing a paycheque shouldn't mean losing your home. If an unexpected expense, illness, or emergency puts you behind on rent, the Rent Bank can help you catch up and avoid eviction.

The Rent Bank gives grants to keep people housed if they're short on rent. We've nearly doubled funding for the Rent Bank since 2023—it's now \$10.8 million. Between the Rent Bank and other programs, we're helping 4,500 people stay in their homes this year. Working Torontonians deserve a city that has their backs.



Mary lives in Scarborough with her two kids. She faced eviction after an unexpected medical issue caused her to fall behind on rent. Through the Rent Bank, she was able to catch up and stay in her home. The Rent Bank helps working families make it through a tough month.

Stopping illegal evictions and illegal rent increases

Last year, Toronto's new Renovictions Bylaw came into effect, protecting renters against illegal evictions under the guise of renovations. In this budget we're funding the enforcement of this bylaw so landlords who break the rules face consequences.

We're also funding free legal help for renters. The Toronto Tenant Support Program gives you legal support when landlords try illegal evictions or illegal rent increases. The budget includes \$4 million for these initiatives, which support renters against illegal evictions, illegal rent increases, and expensive legal bills when it happens.

Free Air Conditioners for Seniors and Families

Toronto's summers keep getting hotter and many older apartment buildings are sweltering in the heat. It can get unsafe. Last year we piloted a program that provides free air conditioners to low-income seniors to help them manage the heat.

We're doubling funding for this program in 2026. By buying more air conditioners in bulk we can secure more than double the number of air conditioning units. We're expanding the program to include families with infants. In 2026, we'll help more than twice as many households stay cool and healthy during heat waves, and keep vulnerable people out of emergency rooms.



Cutting costs for homeowners

Owning a home in Toronto is expensive. The 2026 budget helps you protect your home from flooding and cut your energy costs.

Protect your home from basement flooding

In a major rain storm, many Torontonians worry about basement flooding that damages their home, ruins their belongings, and leads to costly repairs and escalating insurance premiums. The City is here to help you protect your home.

We have doubled the amount homeowners can receive through the Basement Flooding Protection Subsidy Program, now up to \$6,650 to install backwater valves, sump pumps, and backup batteries to prevent flooding. The program includes access to a home plumbing assessment so you can get professional advice on how to best protect your home.

This year we're also subsidizing 3,000 rain barrels and 1,000 downspout diverters to help you manage rainwater around your property.

Low-cost loans to replace your furnace

Furnaces are expensive to replace, but we can help. The new Furnace Upgrade Program gives you low-cost financing to replace your old furnace with an energy-efficient heat pump—which heats your home in winter and cools it in summer, so you don't need a separate air conditioner.

The program connects homeowners to qualified contractors to install the heat pumps, and provides free energy coaching to help people reduce their bills by making their homes more efficient.

Borrow up to \$125,000 for energy-saving upgrades

Through Toronto's Home Energy Loan Program (HELP), homeowners can borrow up to \$125,000 at low interest rates to make their homes more energy efficient. That could mean fixing what you have, like your windows and doors, or installing all-new technology like an electric vehicle charger.

These upgrades save homeowners money and increase the value of their home. A portion of the loan is even provided up front so more homeowners can get started right away.



After severe flooding in Rockcliffe, Mayor Chow canvassed the area with the local Councillor. She heard about the challenges that homeowners face, including that when power failed during severe storms their sump pumps stopped working. This led to a change in the Basement Flooding Program to provide more money for homeowners and to subsidize backup batteries for the first time. This change helps homeowners, protects homes and helps make life more affordable.



Building more homes you can afford

If you work in Toronto, you should be able to afford to live here. But right now, many people can't find an affordable place to live.

We're building thousands of affordable homes right now. During this recent housing market slowdown, 7 out of 10 new housing projects underway are being built or supported by the City.

By building more affordable homes through the 2026 budget, we're continuing to bring down the cost of rent for everyone.

Shovels in the ground on new affordable homes

Last year, we broke ground on over 6,900 rental homes at 22 sites across the city. More than 3,500 of those homes are affordable rentals with rent control—meaning rent won't skyrocket year after year.

We're continuing this progress through the 2026 budget. This year, we're forecasting city-supported groundbreakings for over 27,000 new rental homes across 48 sites, with 9,700 of them rent-controlled and affordable.

These affordable homes are only possible through the City's incentive programs. Through the Purpose-Built Rental Incentives program, we've waived \$460 million in development charges and taxes to get shovels in the ground. You can see these construction sites across the city. Real, tangible progress.

Protecting affordable homes

As fast as we're building affordable housing, we have also invested in protecting existing affordable homes and the people who live there. This year we protected 708 homes through the Multi-Unit Residential Acquisition (MURA) program, which supports land trusts and non-profit housing providers to purchase and maintain existing affordable units. This year, we will be investing another \$45 Million in this program to keep even more homes affordable forever. This program is funded, in part, by the Vacant Homes Tax - that means the proceeds from housing speculators help secure more affordable homes for everyone else.

	Number of sites	Rent-controlled homes <i>Including affordable and rent/geared-to-income</i>	Total new rental homes
Started construction in 2025	22	3,500	6,900
Forecasted to start construction in 2026 <small>Subject to intergovernmental considerations</small>	48	9,700	27,000



Supporting local jobs by lowering taxes for small businesses

Small businesses, and the entrepreneurs and workers who run them, turn neighbourhoods into destinations and make our city more liveable. They are the backbone of Toronto's economy and the city's largest employer.

Right now, through the Small Business Property Tax Subclass, small businesses get a 15% discount on their taxes. To make life more affordable and support more local jobs, this year we are increasing that discount to 20%. That means every small business will get an additional 5% tax cut this year.

The city is stepping up in uncertain economic times to help small businesses keep their doors open, hold on to their employees, and keep prices down. That means more jobs in your community and the local shops and restaurants you love staying in business.



Working together with other governments to get things done

We've made major progress this year by partnering with the Provincial and Federal governments to fix Toronto's infrastructure, build housing, and support people who need help. In 2026 we will continue working with the Provincial and Federal governments to advance Toronto's priorities.

Tangible New Deal outcomes

2026 is the third and final year of our historic Toronto-Ontario New Deal, which included \$1.2 billion in operating support over 3 years, and \$1.9 billion in capital budget support through the upload of the Gardiner Expressway and Don Valley Parkway. We're using that money to fix the TTC, community centres, parks, roads, and build more housing.

We are now in early discussions on the next New Deal.

New Line 2 subway cars built in Canada

New trains are coming for Line 2 thanks to funding we secured from the Province and Federal government in 2023. Last year we made sure these subway cars would be built in Canada, protecting Canadian jobs from the threat of tariffs. The City of Toronto is committed to prioritizing Canadian jobs and workers, and we are moving forward to build the new Line 2 cars with Alstom at their Canadian plants, with the vehicles themselves including 55% Canadian content.

Building more affordable housing

With the support of other orders of government, we broke ground on thousands of units of affordable housing in 2025, and we will continue our progress in 2026. We secured billions in low-cost financing to help private and non-profit partners build housing and enable our own City-led affordable housing incentive programs.

To make it more concrete, two examples of this intergovernmental partnership in action are the 705 new purpose-built rental homes at 777 Victoria Park and 1,484 homes at 50 Wilson Heights. Both of these projects repurpose City-owned land for affordable housing, and relied on low-cost financing from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) that was unlocked through negotiations with the federal government. City leadership and intergovernmental partnership is enabling thousands of new affordable homes to be built in Toronto even as the housing market struggles to recover.

In 2026, we're partnering with Build Canada Homes, a new federal agency, to build more affordable and supportive housing. Our first project replicates the highly successful Dunn House model, which provides housing and wraparound support for homeless Torontonians who regularly end up in emergency rooms. Dunn House Phase 2 will provide 54 rent-gearied-to-income housing for seniors at risk of homelessness. Delivered in partnership with University Health Network and federal and provincial governments, and shows what we can achieve when all levels of government work together.

Securing federal funding for shelters

In 2023, Toronto faced a crisis when thousands of refugees arrived needing shelter. We partnered with the Federal government to bring people indoors, but that funding was about to run out, leaving a \$100 million gap in our 2026 budget. We've secured a new agreement with the Federal government to create a dedicated, sustainable system that is responsive to need and allows us to address financial pressures.



Spending taxpayers' money responsibly

Every year, through the budget process, City divisions set out to find efficiencies and savings so that we can deliver an affordable City government that works well for people.

When I became Mayor, the City had a \$1.8 billion budget hole. We spent two years fixing it, which required difficult decisions. Now, for the first time in 23 years, our credit rating has been upgraded to AA+—one of the strongest in North America. That better credit rating saves taxpayers money when the City borrows.

Funding our City government

This year's combined property tax increase is 2.2%. That is below the rate of inflation and includes a 0.7% increase to the operating budget, and continuing to collect the City Building Levy, at 1.5%, to fund capital projects like roads, parks and other infrastructure.

Making Toronto more fair

The 2026 budget makes Toronto's tax system more fair by asking those who can afford it to chip in a bit more, to make life more affordable for families.

This budget asks the wealthiest 2% of property buyers, and empty home speculators chip in more, so everyone else can pay less. The Vacant Homes Tax and Luxury Homes Tax bring in \$250 million from people who leave homes empty or buy the most expensive properties—money that helps keep your property taxes lower.

Savings and efficiencies

Every year, the budget process begins with work to find savings and efficiencies across all City departments. The 2026 budget includes a total of \$788 million in reductions and offsets to both maintain City services and deliver a budget that's affordable for people. That's \$108 million more in reductions and offsets than last year.

These actions include \$135 million saved through line-by-line reviews and finding efficiencies in how divisions operate. We instituted a non-essential hiring freeze and brought the Toronto Parking Authority in-house, saving \$30 million on operating costs.

I want to thank City staff for their work in finding savings and delivering efficiencies while maintaining city services.



A caring city

Delivering an affordable, caring and safe city means investing in programs that make our city more liveable for everyone. A caring city is one where residents feel like the city is responsive to their day to day experiences. A city that has your back when you need it. Our 2026 budget makes Toronto a more caring city.

Helping seniors age at home

We know that as people grow older, most want to stay in their own home, surrounded by the neighbours and community they know. With new investments in this year's budget, the City can be the helping hand that makes it possible for more Toronto seniors.

Homemakers and nursing services

The City's homemakers and nursing services can help with day-to-day tasks like cleaning, cooking and personal care, so that seniors can get the help they need to stay in their homes and neighbourhoods.

Right now, the waitlist for the City's homemakers and nurses services is eighteen months long. That's changing in 2026. We're increasing funding to eliminate the waitlist completely, so if you need help, you'll get it right away—not a year and a half from now. Further, we are boosting funding to the Extreme Cleaning program that helps seniors who need even more support to stay housed. These programs help over 2,100 seniors. Our investments will clear the waitlist and help more than 450 additional seniors access them quickly, each year.

Financial management support

Some seniors may need support to manage their finances—some peace of mind to ensure rent, food and other essentials are covered and paid on time. That's why we are boosting funding to the Voluntary Trusteeship Program – a community-based service that offers wraparound support to help people pay bills and manage their money.

Property tax relief for seniors

Living on a fixed income makes it hard to keep up with rising property taxes. If you're a senior with an average-priced home, you'll save \$818 this year on your combined property taxes, garbage collection, and water bills. We're expanding access to the City's Property Tax Deferral and Cancellation Program by raising the income threshold to \$62,000. Since 2023, we have raised the income threshold by 13% (\$7,000) to help more seniors access relief and save their money.

Investing in long-term care homes

For those who need more support and around-the-clock care, we are investing in building a new 124-bed long-term care home on George Street, by advancing the long-planned George Street Revitalization project. We are also adding 34 more beds through an \$11.8 million capital investment at Kipling Acres to help more people access care. These sites provide caring, integrated support for seniors and day programs for the community.

Getting Toronto moving

Traffic congestion costs Toronto billions every year in lost time and productivity. We need to get people moving. Thanks to the City's Congestion Management Plan, in 2025, we saw downtown travel times decrease 13%. The 2026 budget continues our progress on improving transit and reducing congestion so you spend less time stuck in traffic.

Faster commutes on the TTC

The 2026 TTC budget is adding 200,000 more hours of TTC service this year—that means shorter waits and more reliable buses, streetcars, and trains. The TTC budget is increasing 6.8% to deliver more service as people return to the office, while keeping fares frozen and introducing fare capping. To help get the LRTs and streetcars moving faster with less time stuck at lights, the City will implement enhanced transit signal priority at intersections.

Keeping traffic moving

With this budget, we continue our progress in addressing congestion. In 2025 we invested in 100 traffic agents to keep cars moving across the city, a 4,000% increase from just 3 traffic agents in 2022. This year we're adding 27 more agents to direct traffic, clear blockages, and keep you moving, for a total of 127 traffic agents across the city.

We're continuing to invest in smart street signal technology to react to traffic conditions in real time and automatically adjust to keep people moving.

We're clearing construction from our roads faster. We have new incentives to make sure developers, construction companies and utilities stop blocking lanes of traffic for extended periods of time. In 2025, we reduced the average time that a road was closed for construction by three and a half days.

Across City divisions and agencies, we're focusing on better coordination of major events like concerts or play-off runs. We have hired a Chief Congestion Officer to help tackle congestion and create a plan to keep people moving during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Faster construction, less congestion

Construction is the biggest cause of traffic delays. The faster we finish projects, the faster you can get around. We completed the Gardiner Expressway construction 18 months ahead of schedule, by working 24/7 through support secured from the provincial government. We also used this model to finish major intersection projects at King and Church and King and Dufferin ahead of schedule.

Better transit for Scarborough

People who live and work in Scarborough deserve better and more reliable public transit. The Scarborough Busway opens this September—it's a dedicated bus route that gets buses out of traffic and moving faster while we wait for the Province to finish building the subway extension. This means faster, more reliable commutes for Scarborough residents, saving 20 minutes of travel time daily.

To provide 27 stops along 18 km of transit, bringing people from Kennedy Station to University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, we are working on a detailed design for the Eglinton East LRT. As soon as the federal and provincial governments join us, we will make sure Scarborough has the affordable public transit it deserves. And, in this budget we're giving the authority to explore design options that include grade separation to keep the new line out of mixed traffic.



A more liveable and vibrant city

Our city comes alive when people connect. From parks and recreation centres to street festivals, this budget invests in the places where Torontonians come together. We're making Toronto a better place to live, work, and play by making investments to make our city a more liveable, beautiful and caring place to live.

Investing in our parks and recreation spaces

Parks and recreation centres are where Torontonians come together to gather at all times of year. This budget invests in enhanced cleaning protocols at recreation centres to keep them welcoming, expands online booking tools for easier access to recreational spaces, and expands early local registration in communities with free recreation centres. We're also investing an additional \$40.2 million to upgrade 265 playgrounds over the next 10 years.

Winterizing park washrooms across the city

Over the next 6 years, our new Washroom Enhancement Program will transform 125 washrooms across our parks into year-round facilities, to help you get relief when you need it. 15 washrooms will be converted to year-round use by November 2026, and a further 21 washrooms will be complete by November 2027.

Building new child care in Scarborough

Families across Toronto deserve high-quality, affordable child care, but not all neighbourhoods have the same access. As part of our child care growth plan, we're investing in new child care spaces in high-need areas. This budget includes a new \$8 million investment to build a child care centre as part of the City-led transit-oriented community at 158 Borough Drive, right next to Scarborough Centre station.

Investing in arts and culture

We're making it possible to have more free street festivals and public events for families to enjoy all summer by continuing the Special Events Stabilization Initiative, which provides vital operating support to the many festivals that animate our neighbourhoods. This budget also continues our multi-year commitment to supporting the Toronto Arts Council with an additional \$2 million, and to double the funding for Local Arts Service Organizations across Toronto over the next five years.



Real progress on reducing homelessness

Everyone deserves a safe and secure home. In 2025, we made significant progress in addressing homelessness and helping people get back on their feet. Last year, we helped over 4,400 people move into shelter or housing, and the number of encampments across the city dropped by 64%. We prevented thousands of evictions through programs that help people pay rent before they lose their homes. We're also building more shelters and housing that provide holistic support that have the power to transform lives.

In 2026, we're continuing this work. We'll provide shelter for over 9,000 people every night, bring people indoors from the streets, and help 5,000 people move from shelters into stable housing.



A safer city

Crime is down across Toronto. In 2025, we had fewer murders than any year in the past 50 years.

Shootings dropped 43%. Car thefts down 25%. Robberies down 20%.

Our investments in public safety are working, and we're building on what works to continue making Toronto safer. This budget continues our progress on safety.

Faster Help, Safer City

In 2025, 911 wait times dropped by over 75%. Through the 2026 budget, we are continuing to invest in faster help and safer neighbourhoods with more frontline staff.

The 2026 budget continues our investment in multi-year front-line hiring plans that are helping keep people safe:

- 911 Operators: 90 new 911 operators to answer your calls faster.
- Toronto Police Service: 720 officers, hiring ongoing as part of multi-year hiring plan.
- Toronto Paramedic Services: 361 paramedics and staff, hiring ongoing as part of multi-year hiring plan.
- Toronto Fire Services: 156 new firefighters hired as the City completed implementation of the latest multi-year hiring plan.
- Toronto Community Crisis Service: Crisis workers citywide to respond to mental health emergencies, and embedded on the "U" portion of the Line 1 subway as part of a broader, multi-agency approach to enhancing TTC safety.

Investing in Youth

Too many youth have been impacted by gun violence, the hardships felt deeply in families and communities across our City. Toronto youth deserve safety and a sense of well-being and opportunity to help them choose another path.

Last year, we invested an additional \$5 million into youth safety programs and this funding is continuing in this budget. Through our youth Summer Safety Plan we engaged 15,000 youth and 550 parents and caregivers in summer recreation and violence prevention programs. We saw real results: youth violence dropped 40% across the city.

This budget builds on this progress by continuing these successful community youth violence reduction programs in 2026. Programs like THRIVE and BRAVE, that break cycles of violence. More summer programming through Parks and Recreation as well as Toronto Community Housing so young people have safe places to be, and increased support for organizations like Wanashah, Gamechangers and PEACH to scale up work that is already successfully impacting young people and making neighbourhoods safer.



By helping youth learn new skills and connecting them with peer mentors, Game Changers creates safer schools and communities. Before the program started at Westview Collegiate, there were three or four conflicts a day. After the first year, there were zero.. Game Changers is run by TNG Community Services and supported by a grant from the City.

Creating Youth Jobs

Helping youth find a job gives them a sense of purpose and opportunity, helping them choose a better path. Right now, too many young people are struggling to find work. That's why we are investing in creating more job opportunities for young people. We will train 2,000 young people this year through Building Skills Through Recreation — double the number trained last year. Through 40 different City programs, we are hiring 16,000 young people for jobs in recreation, special events, museums, and more. By helping youth build skills and gain job experience, we can create stronger communities.

Safer TTC

To get people moving in Toronto, public transit must be safe and feel safe. For too long, underinvestments in safety drove riders away. We are turning things around. The TTC is safer today than two years ago: safety complaints have dropped by more than half and offences on transit are down 28%. However, there is much more work to do.

The 2026 budget continues our investment in a total of 420 frontline safety workers on the TTC. This includes more visible TTC staff, embedded mental health crisis workers on the subway, outreach workers for people experiencing homelessness, Provincial Offence Officers, Toronto Police Neighbourhood Community Officers patrolling the system, and security guards throughout the TTC.





MAYOR
OLIVIA CHOW