

February 9, 2026



REGENT PARK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

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Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

I am writing on behalf of Regent Park Community Health Centre (RPCHC) to express our support for the restoration and stabilization of project funding for the Regent Park Social Development Plan (RPSDP) in the City of Toronto's 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets.

Regent Park Community Health Centre has worked closely with the Regent Park community through RPSDP-aligned initiatives, and we have seen firsthand the value of the Social Development Plan as a coordinating framework that translates City priorities into real, community-level outcomes. The SDP has provided an important structure for collaboration between residents, community agencies, and City divisions—particularly in a neighbourhood experiencing significant redevelopment and social pressure.

Through our involvement, we have received funding for our Youth Enrichment Academy, an after-school program for youth in grades 5-8, providing academic support and mentorship, and funding for multiple Black History Month events held over several years. This investment contributed to expanded youth leadership opportunities, stronger resident participation in community programming, and increased collaboration between RPCHC and local partners. It also supported safer, more inclusive community spaces and improved coordination of services for youth and families. These results were possible because the SDP provided clear governance, accountability, and a resident-led approach grounded in lived experience.

From our perspective, the Social Development Plan functions as essential social infrastructure. Predictable operating funding has enabled prevention-focused work, reduced duplication across agencies, and supported long-term planning that is far more cost-effective than reactive emergency responses. The gains achieved in Regent Park—particularly in community safety, social cohesion, and trust—are the direct result of sustained, coordinated investment.

We are concerned that the absence of stable funding for the Regent Park Social Development Plan in the proposed 2026 Budget places these outcomes at risk. At a time when communities are facing rising eviction pressures, housing instability, and increased demand on crisis systems, reducing support for a proven prevention framework could contribute to greater instability in the neighbourhood. For these reasons, Regent Park Community Health Centre respectfully urges City Council to:

- Restore and stabilize \$500,000 in project funding for the Regent Park Social Development Plan in the 2026 Budget; and
- Reaffirm Council's commitment to community-led social development as a core pillar of public safety, housing stability, and equitable city-building.

Continued investment in the Regent Park Social Development Plan is not only an investment in one neighbourhood—it is an investment in approaches that Toronto can continue to learn from and scale across the city.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We would be pleased to provide further information if helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Payam Pakravan".

Payam Pakravan
Executive Director (Interim)
Regent Park Community Health Centre