

Regent Park Neighbourhood Association



MPB38.1 2026 Operating and Capital Budget

Regent Park Neighbourhood Association Inc.

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February 9, 2026

Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of City Council

Toronto City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Continued Investment in Social Development Plans

Reference: EX28.19 – 2026 Budget Allocation for Social Development Plan Implementation

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

We are writing on behalf of the **Regent Park Neighbourhood Association (RPNA)** to reiterate and reinforce our request for continued and stable investment in Social Development Plans (SDPs) as part of the City of Toronto's 2026 Operating and Capital Budget.

RPNA previously submitted a written letter and deputation to the Executive Committee in relation to **Item EX28.19 – 2026 Budget Allocation for Social Development Plan Implementation**. As City Council now considers the 2026 Budget, we wish to ensure that the perspectives and evidence shared through that submission remain clearly before all Members of Council.

Social Development Plans are not pilot projects or short-term initiatives. They are proven, resident-led frameworks that address the root causes of inequity, violence, and displacement by coordinating prevention, community safety, economic opportunity, and social cohesion at the neighbourhood level.

Citywide Momentum for Social Development Plans

There is growing, citywide consensus that SDPs are essential social infrastructure. Resident associations and coalitions across Toronto — including [submissions](#) from the Federation of South Toronto Residents' Associations ([FoSTRA](#)) — have called on the City to scale and stabilize SDP investment to meet rising social and economic pressures facing neighbourhoods.

This momentum reflects a shared understanding: without sustained investment in community-based prevention and coordination, the City will continue to face escalating costs related to crisis response, enforcement, and displacement.

Regent Park: A Proven Model

Regent Park is Toronto's first Social Development Plan, approved by City Council in 2007 and refreshed in 2019 through extensive resident engagement. The Regent Park SDP focuses on four priority areas:

- Community Safety
- Employment and Economic Development
- Community Building
- Communication

Between 2019 and 2024, the SDP has demonstrated [measurable outcomes](#), including strengthened community safety, expanded employment pathways, enhanced service coordination, and large-scale resident participation in governance and neighbourhood life. These outcomes are the direct result of [stable funding](#), resident leadership, and [cross-sector collaboration](#).

Budget Context and Prevention

As Council weighs difficult budget decisions, it is important to recognize that investments in SDPs complement and reduce pressure on other City systems. Prevention-focused social development improves safety outcomes, reduces avoidable crises, and strengthens trust between residents and institutions.

If significant increases of **\$93,800,000** in enforcement and reactive spending are being considered, comparable investments in prevention, [equity](#), and community capacity are both fiscally responsible and evidence-based.

Request to City Council

As City Council deliberates on the 2026 Budget, RPNA respectfully urges Council to:

- Uphold and advance the commitments outlined in [EX28.19](#)
- Ensure stable, ongoing funding for Social Development Plans
- Support a citywide approach to SDPs, beginning with equity-deserving and high-priority neighbourhoods
- Resource resident-led neighbourhood associations and coalitions to coordinate and deliver SDP work with accountability and transparency

Closing

The Regent Park Social Development Plan has shown that when the City invests in residents and prevention, the returns are measurable, lasting, and [enhances city-building](#).

We urge Members of Council to affirm Social Development Plans as a core component of Toronto's approach to safety, equity, and neighbourhood well-being, and to reflect this commitment in the final 2026 Budget.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. RPNA would welcome the opportunity to engage further as budget deliberations continue.

Sincerely,

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About the Regent Park Neighbourhood Association

The RPNA seeks to foster an inclusive, diverse and healthy neighbourhood in which all residents feel at home. The RPNA also recognizes that Toronto Community Housing (TCH) residents had a vibrant community in Regent Park prior to the redevelopment and seeks to build on that history of grassroots initiatives, resident led ventures, and strong networks. To ensure that this heritage is not lost, TCH residents serve in half of the RPNA Leadership Team positions. The RPNA's advocacy was central in negotiating and winning a commitment from TCHC to include a \$26.8M Community Benefits Agreement as part of Phase 4 and 5 of revitalization in Regent Park.

The RPNA seeks to foster an inclusive, diverse and healthy community through...

1. **ADVOCACY** - to provide a strong voice for residents on issues that will benefit our entire community.
2. **COMMUNITY BUILDING** - to bring our culturally diverse and mixed-income community together.
3. **COMMUNICATION** - So much is happening in Regent Park! It's important to keep residents informed.

