

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the **Regent Park Tenants Rights Association (RPTRA)** to express our strong support for the **restoration and stabilization of \$500,000 in annual project funding** for the **Regent Park Social Development Plan (RPSDP)** in the City of Toronto's 2026 Operating and Capital Budget.

Our organization has worked closely with residents, community partners, and City divisions through SDP-aligned initiatives, and we have seen firsthand the value of the Social Development Plan as a **coordinated, resident-led framework** that translates City priorities into tangible, community-level outcomes. In a neighbourhood undergoing significant redevelopment and social pressure, the SDP has provided a trusted structure for collaboration, accountability, and alignment across sectors.

Through our involvement in **RPSDP project(s) or initiative(s)**, we hope our organization will receive contributions **[financial and/or in-kind contributions] in the next year or further**. Hopefully, RPSDP will collaborate with RPTRA (in partnership) **to strengthen resident leadership and participation, youth engagement, violence prevention and community safety, improved service coordination, or social cohesion in the future**. These outcomes are possible if the SDP provides clear governance, resident leadership, and a prevention-focused approach grounded in lived experience.

From our perspective, the Regent Park Social Development Plan may function as **essential social infrastructure**. Stable project and programming funding enables prevention-oriented work, reduces duplication across agencies, strengthens resident governance, and supports long-term planning that is far more effective—and cost-efficient—than reactive, crisis-driven responses. The gains achieved in Regent Park in recent years reflect the impact of **sustained, coordinated investment**, not short-term or fragmented interventions.

We are therefore concerned that the absence of renewed SDP project funding in the proposed 2026 Budget places these hard-won outcomes at risk. At a time when communities across Toronto are experiencing heightened pressures—including housing instability, rising service demand, and increasing strain on emergency and crisis systems—disinvesting from a proven, prevention-focused framework is counterproductive and fiscally short-sighted.

For these reasons, **RPTRA** respectfully urges the City Council to:

1. **Restore and stabilize \$500,000 in annual project funding** for the Regent Park Social Development Plan in the 2026 Budget; and
2. **Reaffirm Council's commitment to community-led social development** as a core pillar of public safety, community wellbeing, 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 a resident-driven, prevention-focused model of social infrastructure that Toronto can continue to learn from and scale city-wide.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to provide further information or speak to our experience working within the SDP framework.

Sincerely,



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President

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cc: Members of Toronto City Council; Budget Committee; City Manager; Social Development, Finance & Administration Division