

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,


Shah Saleh Ahmed

President

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