



The Honourable Olivia Chow  
Mayor of Toronto  
City Hall, 2nd Floor  
100 Queen St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of City Council,

**Re: Item MPB38.1 – 2026 Operating and Capital Budget (City-wide)**

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I am writing on behalf of the **Toronto Birth Centre** 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.

In 2025, through the Toronto Birth Centre's involvement in **Perinatal Community Programming for Pregnant and Parenting residents of Regent Park**, our organization contributed **32 workshops joining together over 282 community members and registered health professionals** over the course of **12 transformative months**. This work supported outcomes such as **peer-group capacity building, increased healthcare literacy and access, as well as covering high-quality information regarding key topics including Infant CPR, how to get Prenatal Care, and Postpartum Health**. These outcomes were made possible because the SDP provided clear governance, resident leadership, and a prevention-focused approach grounded in lived experience. **The families of Regent Park benefitted from engaging with the TBC programming made possible by the Regent Park SDP funding. Programs like this, which support community engagement and connect community peer-leaders with skill-building, are essential to improved parental-neonatal health outcomes. This type of neighbourhood investment is needed on an on-going basis, to continue to prioritize the children, parents, and families of Regent Park.**

From our perspective, the Regent Park Social Development Plan functions 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. **The work of the Regent Park SDP reaches even the hardest to reach within the neighbourhood.**

For these reasons, **the Toronto Birth Centre** respectfully urges 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,

**Blandine Tona**  
**Executive Director**  
**Toronto Birth Centre**  
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*cc: Members of Toronto City Council; Budget Committee; City Manager; Social Development, Finance & Administration Division*