

# Our Plan Toronto

## Phase 1 Engagement Summary

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## Executive Summary

Phase 1 engagement and communications work for Our Plan Toronto focused on **launching the project, building awareness and talking about what a future ready Toronto looks like**. To achieve this, outreach and consultation activities focused on engaging in conversations about Toronto's future with a diverse range of people living, working and caring for Toronto. This included internal City communications as well as external community outreach with community leaders, City Committees, internal municipal divisions, Indigenous rights holders, stakeholders (including environmental groups, tenants' associations/organizations, residents' associations, businesses, business improvement areas, academics/research institutes, mobility related groups, development industry and community development organizations), and the general public.

Outreach and communications during Phase 1 of the project used a multifaceted approach of online, social media, television, email, telephone and community networking to share information about the project and invite people to participate in consultation. This included utilizing networks of stakeholders and community connections to build awareness, circulate meeting invitations and share information.

### SUMMARY OF PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

#### Meetings completed during Phase 1 engagement, from May through to August 2021, included:

- 2 meetings with Indigenous rights holders
- 14 meetings with stakeholder groups, committees and community organizations
- 1 meeting with the Community Leaders Circle
- 2 meetings with inter-divisional staff
- In total we met directly with 478 people through organized meetings and focus groups

#### Outreach and communications during Phase 1 engagement included:

- Naming and Launch of Our Plan Toronto
- Website launch
- Data-based storytelling tool (StoryMap) – Our Toronto: Past, Present and Future
- Explainer document: Your Guide to Our Plan Toronto
- TVO's The Agenda episode: Interview with Toronto's Chief Planner, Gregg Lintern and Deputy Mayor, Ana Bailao
- Public Awareness Social Media Launch
- Contact List Updates/Email blasts
- Email distribution of meeting materials and presentations
- Phone calls / video conference calls with interested stakeholders
- Email and telephone outreach to 20+ Indigenous rights holders, care-takers and organizations

Project email contact [opreview@toronto.ca](mailto:opreview@toronto.ca)

Developing contact lists, identifying the various interests in the project and understanding capacity for participation was an important focus for Phase 1 of Our Plan Toronto. This included reaching out to Indigenous rights holders and various community-based organizations to discuss options for participation and limitations related to capacity for involvement. The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the capacity of many organizations and stakeholders working in community development and social services. This has also greatly affected Indigenous communities across Canada. Phase 1 included developing a better understanding of the capacity levels of various stakeholders to help plan engagement that would be meaningful and considerate of capacity constraints. This included establishing honorariums for the participation of community-based organizations and Indigenous participants.

Establishing a Community Leaders Circle (CLC) was a critical step in Phase 1. The CLC is focused on bringing forward the interests of equity-deserving communities across Toronto. The CLC is made up of community leaders from organizations who work with underrepresented, marginalized and racialized populations. Establishing the CLC included identifying and mapping organizations of interest to ensure that a wide range of issues and geographic areas of the city were represented on the CLC. Key equity related issues that the CLC membership covers include:

- Accessibility for people with disabilities
- Community services (including employment, social services, health care, etc.)
- Housing
- Newcomers and immigrants
- People experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity
- Poverty
- Racialized communities including black people and people of colour
- Women
- Youth and at-risk youth
- Many organizations that touch on the cross-section of these inter-related equity issues and equity deserving populations

A working list of stakeholders, CLC contacts, Indigenous rights holders and Indigenous organizations that have been contacted for involvement in this engagement process is included on the project webpage.

The Phase 1 effort to build awareness of Our Plan Toronto included revising the City webpage with information and tools to educate and explain the Municipal Comprehensive Review process and the necessity to plan for growth. This included launching a digital project StoryMap and sharing “Your Guide to Our Plan Toronto”, which outlines the process and why it matters.

To build awareness and interest in Our Plan Toronto, we asked people to tell us what their vision of Toronto 2051 looks like. We asked people to fill in the following sentence: Toronto in 2051 will be...? Based on this input, conversations during Phase 1 were focused on three overall questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges facing Toronto as we grow?
2. What do you value most about Toronto that you think should be sustained or replicated as we grow?
3. How can we plan to break down inequalities across Toronto?

Depending on the audience for consultation, these questions were refined for discussion.

### **Key Themes of What We Heard During Phase 1**

The key themes that were most frequently raised in Phase 1 related to wanting Toronto 2051 to be: sustainable, affordable, equitable, accessible, green, inclusive and walkable. Concerns were raised related to the impacts of growth, including issues regarding affordability, safety, traffic, environmental degradation and infrastructure capacity to serve growth. Participants identified the growing inequities across the city that need to be addressed in order to have healthy communities in the future. The discussion points raised most frequently across different audiences during Phase 1 were:

- Protecting the environment and acting on climate change
- Access to housing for all, as a right – including deeply affordable housing and increasing the range of housing options in communities
- Equity, inclusion and eliminating systemic discrimination in planning and decision-making
- Developing complete communities for people of all ages and abilities
- Mobility and access to comfortable, reliable, safe and efficient transportation
- Building infrastructure to support growth – including transit, cycling, schools, etc.

- Supporting Indigenous people, rights and practices
- Good governance and implementation, including accountability of decision-making bodies
- Job growth and access to a range of employment opportunities across the city
- Cultural diversity and supporting community culture and cohesion
- Recreational areas accessible to all
- Supporting creative/sustainable ways to build and accommodate more people
- Coordinating priorities and policies for growth across divisions at the City

### **Summary of Recommendations**

Based on the input received during Phase 1 engagement for Our Plan Toronto, the following recommendations are identified for consideration by the City as they work through the review and update of OP policies:

- Identify priorities to tackle climate change in the OP – have focused conversations with a range of stakeholders and specialists regarding the environment and climate change, with specific input on climate action for mitigation and adaptation
- Identify Indigenous approaches and perspectives for environmental policies
- Centre equity in the OP to address concerns related to social and economic exclusion – include a review of the equity issues in Toronto and identification of what other municipalities are doing to address equity in planning
- Increase efforts to engage Indigenous rights holders and Indigenous people living and working in Toronto to bring forward Indigenous perspectives in planning
- Identify the range of planning tools that need to be supported through the Official Plan to address the housing affordability crisis – include both rental and ownership
- Consider the impacts of COVID-19 on the future of work and opportunities to support different live-work conditions
- Identify how to support complete communities for different populations and geographies in the city
- Bring forward youth perspectives in planning, particularly regarding issues of climate change
- Identify the infrastructure needs to support growth in different communities across the city; consider that not all communities are facing the same issues or need the same infrastructure investments



## **Report Organization**

This report is organized into four Sections. Section 1 of this report presents the background, purpose, study process, and goals and objectives of the engagement. Section 2 presents the consultation and communication activities undertaken during Phase 1 (May – August, 2021). Section 3 summarizes the input received and identifies the key themes and community priorities that emerged during Phase 1 engagement. Section 4 outlines next steps of the project and engagement activities. The input gathered during Phase 1 will inform the discussion and key themes for Phase 2 outreach and engagement.

Dillon Consulting Limited is the independent engagement and facilitation team retained by the City of Toronto (City) to support consultation and communications for the City's Official Plan Review. This summary report was prepared by the Dillon team and is intended to reflect the key engagement activities and discussion points from consultation. It is not intended to be a verbatim record of all input received.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Our Plan Toronto is the Official Plan review process that is provincially required to satisfy the Municipal Comprehensive Review and Growth Plan conformity exercise. The Official Plan is a city planning document that acts as Toronto's road map for land use matters. It sets out our long-term vision, shared values, and policies that help guide decision-making on land development, economic growth, the environment, and more. It is an essential plan that directs where different types of development should and should not go and what is needed to support healthy, complete, thriving and inclusive communities.

As part of the Our Plan Toronto process, the City will consult on and look at how to address the many disparities that exist across our city in an effort to become a more equitable, welcoming, and healthy city for all. This includes an examination of our history and reflection on Indigenous priorities in a manner that supports Indigenous self-determination.

## 1.2 Purpose of Engagement

Throughout the Our Plan Toronto process, community input and feedback will inform the technical work for the Official Plan review. Determining the public's needs, desires, and interests is important for determining where growth should go and what is needed to support healthy and complete communities. The purpose and overall goals of the engagement program are to ensure that the Official Plan update incorporates input from the public and stakeholders to tackle issues related key topic areas, including housing affordability, equity, employment, environment and climate change. In order to achieve the goals and purpose, the engagement program includes three phases of work, as illustrated in **Figure 1**.

## 1.3 Study Process

Figure 1: Study Process

# Study Process and Engagement Approach



The first phase of the engagement program included launching the communications and consultation with Indigenous communities, stakeholders, community leaders, internal City divisions and the public to craft the vision and priorities for 2051.

The second phase of the engagement program will focus on discussing the policy expectations for 2051 related to some of the big questions facing our city. Topics include environment and climate change, affordable housing and intensification, future of work and employment areas, and neighbourhoods and complete communities.

The last engagement phase, Phase 3 will take place in 2022 and will include drafting policies that reflect the feedback received during Phases 1 and 2. The draft policies will be reviewed and consulted on in order to inform recommendations for Council consideration.

## **1.4 Phase 1 Goals & Objectives**

The primary goal for the Phase 1 engagement and communications program was to launch the Our Plan Toronto process and set the stage for engagement and input. Phase 1 objectives included outreach to Indigenous, stakeholder and equity-deserving communities to inform the focus of consultation for the Official Plan. Phase 1 objectives also included meeting with internal City staff across divisions in the City that contribute to city-building activities in order to understand the range of divisional priorities that need to be coordinated and aligned with the Municipal Comprehensive Review.

In order to achieve the objectives for Phase 1, engagement and communications efforts focused on the following priorities:

- Launch the project
- Develop contact lists to engage a wide range of stakeholders, community organizations, Indigenous rights holders, Indigenous organizations, businesses and residents
- Introduce Our Plan Toronto to stakeholders and gather input on City priorities for 2051
- Recruit members for the Community Leaders Circle and gather input on City priorities for 2051
- Reach out to Indigenous rights holders and organizations, introduce Our Plan Toronto, and gather input on approaches for engagement related Our Plan Toronto
- Engage with internal divisions within the City to align and coordinate policy expectations and priorities for growth to 2051

- Encourage public interest in Our Plan Toronto through social media, online engagement, exploration of the project StoryMap and registration for e-bulletin updates

To achieve the Phase 1 goals, a series of engagement and communications activities were identified and executed, including:

- Online communications (social media, website updates, emails)
- Media communications
- Webpage updates and engagement activities
- Interdivisional City meetings
- Stakeholder and community leader outreach and consultation meetings
- Outreach to Indigenous rights holders, businesses and organizations
- Meetings with advisory committees and councils
- Contact List Updates

Phase 1 communication and engagement activities were completed between May and August 2021. Details of these activities are presented in subsequent Sections 2.1 and 2.2.

## 2 Phase 1 Consultation & Communications Activities

### 2.1 Communications Materials & Activities

The Phase 1 communications materials and activities were designed to reach a broad and diverse audience using online tools to inform the people of the project, understand expectations, and identify key themes from stakeholders. The development and release of the communications materials for Phase 1 were aligned with COVID-19 public health guidelines and consists of online consultation activities.

Communications materials and methods of outreach included:

- Developing and launching the Our Plan Toronto brand, including graphics to represent the project
- Online Communications – social media outreach, website updates – including promotion of Our Plan Toronto StoryMap and Your Guide to Our Plan Toronto
- TVO's The Agenda episode on Planning Toronto's Future: Interview with Toronto's Chief Planner, Gregg Lintern, and Deputy Mayor Ana Bailao
- Stakeholder outreach and consultation meetings
- Community Leaders Circle Meetings and email and telephone outreach to identify interests
- Emails and phone calls with Indigenous Rights Holders and Indigenous organizations
- Interdivisional outreach to staff within the City and working group meeting
- Presentations to the Aboriginal Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC) and the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)
- Contact List updates and virtual meeting invitations
- Updates to Councillors on launch of Our Plan Toronto

The public has had the opportunity to contact the project team via the contact information available from the project website:

- Email: [opreview@toronto.ca](mailto:opreview@toronto.ca)
- Phone: 416-392-6578

Over the course of the project so far, there has been significant media attention on Our Plan Toronto and the issues of growth, development, climate change and equity. This includes newspaper, television, online news, social media and radio coverage. Part of the communications program for Our Plan Toronto includes tracking and monitoring issues raised in the media to inform communications and materials for engagement going forward.

## **2.2 Engagement Activities**

Engagement activities were designed to reach a broad and diverse audience using both online tools and virtual meeting platforms. The following sections outline the key engagement activities completed during Phase 1.

### **2.2.1 Stakeholder Meetings**

A set of two Town Hall meetings were held over Webex on May 26th and 27th, 2021 to provide stakeholders across the city with an opportunity to learn about Our Plan Toronto and share input on the key challenges and opportunities for the Official Plan review. These meetings offered a space to ask questions and get clarity on the scope of the project and how participants could engage in the process. Clarification was also provided on where stakeholders could go for more information regarding topics not directly related to the Our Plan Toronto process. A total of 100 participants attended the two sessions.

In addition to the two primary Stakeholder Town Hall meetings, smaller supporting meetings with stakeholder groups were also held to increase awareness and discuss key topics of interest. Focused stakeholder meetings that the Our Plan Toronto team participated in included meetings with the Toronto NonProfit Network and BILD.

The City Planning team for Our Plan Toronto was also invited to present at additional supporting meetings with residents and resident associations to help build awareness of the project and answer initial questions regarding the work. These included meetings with Downtown North Development, Annex and Harbord Village Residents Association, ABC Residents Association, Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations, St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, Bedford Park Residents Organization, Lytton Park Residents' Organization, South Armour Heights Residents' Association, St. Andrew's Ratepayers Association, Yonge and Eglinton Residents' Association; Leaside Residents Association, Deer Park Residents Group; Bedford Park Residents Organization, and residents from Ward 9 (Davenport).

### **2.2.2 Community Leaders Circle Meetings**

Comprised of representatives and leaders of over 30 community-based and city-wide organizations, the Community Leaders Circle (CLC) was established to share perspectives and help lead outreach to communities and audiences across Toronto. A launch meeting with the CLC members was held on June 3rd, 2021 with a total of 25 participants. The input from the CLC is crucial to ensuring that the outcomes of the Our Plan Toronto process meaningfully contribute towards eliminating disparities created by current planning policies. The members of the CLC are also integral to helping the Our

Plan Toronto team to reach marginalized communities and audiences that might not typically participate in city-wide planning processes.

The Our Plan Toronto team spoke on the phone with many organizations of interest to support the creation of the CLC and identify capacity requirements involvement.

### **2.2.3 Indigenous Rights Holders Meetings and City Advisory Groups**

The City's Planning team met with the Aboriginal Affairs and Advisory Committee (AAAC) on June 18, 2021 and with the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) on June 24, 2021 to present on the purpose of Our Plan Toronto and to receive input on approaches to consulting with Indigenous rights holders, Indigenous organizations and urban residents.

On July 27, 2021 and again on August 11, 2021, the Our Plan Toronto team met with staff from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN). The July meeting focused on learning the history of MCFN in the Toronto area. The August meeting focused on MCFN priorities for the Official Plan and overall involvement in planning work in Toronto.

Throughout June, July and August, the Our Plan Toronto engagement team spent time reaching out to Indigenous rights holders and care takers to set-up meetings and understand interests in Our Plan Toronto. This effort was informed by input from the Indigenous Affairs Office (IAO) at the City.

### **2.2.4 Indigenous Businesses and Organizations**

Developing relationships with Indigenous organizations and service providers is a key aspect of the City's continuing effort to support Indigenous reconciliation and embed Indigenous perspectives planning policy. As part of Phase 1, the Our Plan Toronto team developed a list of organizations to reach out to discuss the best approach for engagement on Our Plan Toronto. This effort included designing interview surveys to be completed in Phase 2 with Indigenous organizations.

### **2.2.5 Youth and Young Adults**

As part of the CLC, there are specific young adult voices represented for the 18-30 age group. In addition, the Our Plan Toronto team spent time in Phase 1 identifying approaches to engaging youth in Our Plan Toronto. Informal discussions were held with school boards and teachers to understand options for coordinating youth engagement activities with school curriculum in the 2021/2022 calendar year. Phase 2 will focus on rolling out a youth engagement program coordinated with middle and high school classes across Toronto.



## **2.2.6 Interdivisional Meetings**

As part of engagement planning and outreach, the project team presented to multiple city divisions to introduce Our Plan Toronto and receive input on overlapping priorities from City divisions involved in city building and those divisions that specifically affected by growth planning policy. The divisions that the project team presented to included Transportation Services, Environment & Energy, Parks, Forestry & Recreation, Seniors Services and Long-Term Care, Solid Waste Management, Transit Expansion Office, Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Water, Strategic Communications, Municipal Licensing & Standards, Engineering and Construction Services, Toronto Building, Office of Emergency Management, Legal Services, Indigenous Affairs Office, Economic Development and Culture.

## **2.2.7 Social Media, Website & E-updates**

To engage with the public online, the engagement team sent out a series of project posts using the hashtag #OurPlanTO on Instagram (@CityPlanTO, @cityoftoronto), Twitter (@CityPlanTO, @cityoftoronto), and Facebook (Toronto City Planning). Social media outputs focused on informing people of the project, directing people to information on the project webpage and encouraging people to sign-up for updates via the project email.

In Phase 1, 10 social media posts and threads were released. All City Planning tweets, as well as those from others using the project hashtag, are available at: [#OurPlanTO Twitter Page](#). Instagram posts are on the CityPlanTO profile at: [#OurPlanTO Instagram Page](#). Facebook posts on the Toronto City Planning facebook page are available at: [City Plan TO Facebook Page](#).

### 3 What We Heard

#### 3.1 Highlights of Overall Input Received

**Table 1** highlights the key themes of input received during Phase 1 engagement.

**Table 1: Themes of Input**

Theme	Examples of Topics Raised
<b>Protecting the environment and acting on climate change</b>	Address resilience to climate change through protecting ravine systems, natural recreation areas, and sensitive areas. Reduce heat island effect from increased urbanization with low-carbon development, trees and green design.
<b>Access to housing for all, as a right</b>	Facilitate a human-rights focused approach to housing to address deeply affordable housing, reduce barriers to affordable housing, and fund housing initiatives like social housing and co-op housing.
<b>Communities designed for all residents to thrive</b>	Plan for complete communities for all ages and abilities. Provide access to parks and recreation, technologies, services, infrastructure, and transit.
<b>Mobility and access to comfortable, reliable, safe and efficient transportation</b>	Focus more on transit, pedestrians and cyclists’ access for all ages and abilities and in areas where there are concentrations of equity deserving groups, including in Scarborough and north west Toronto.
<b>Infrastructure to support growth</b>	Support expansion and design of infrastructure especially for waste collection and water servicing.
<b>Equity and eliminating systemic discrimination in planning and decision-making</b>	Address system racism and over policing, enforcement, and evictions. Provide accountability to equity deserving groups through planning considerations. Center community voices in planning and establish planning principles around community-based planning, with a focus on diversity of views, lived experiences, and City’s Confronting Anti-Black Racism Plan.
<b>Job growth and access to a range of employment opportunities across the city</b>	Support small and medium sized business and reduce systemic barriers to employment opportunities. Provide supportive housing near jobs.

Theme	Examples of Topics Raised
<b>Indigenous rights and heritage</b>	Support truth and reconciliation through building relationships with Indigenous communities and embedding Indigenous perspectives in planning.
<b>Good governance and community-based decision-making</b>	Balance needs of land and property owners, renters, development industry, and businesses. Need for more collaborative planning and community awareness on decision-making.
<b>Support cultural diversity and community cohesion</b>	Support local and family-owned businesses that reflect diversity in neighbourhoods and provide multi-lingual and multicultural programming. Support aging in place to maintain community connections.
<b>Recreational areas accessible to all</b>	Provide better access to recreational spaces, green spaces, parks, tree canopy, waterfront and beaches.
<b>Creative ways to build and accommodate more people</b>	Encourage more interesting architecture and design for developments. Support housing for the missing middle across all neighbourhoods in the city. Support sustainable building approaches that reduce impacts with intensifying areas.

### 3.2 Input by Key Questions

The following sections summarize the input received on the three main questions asked to determine the priorities for 2051:

1. What are the biggest challenges facing Toronto as we grow?
2. What do you value most about Toronto that you think should be sustained or replicated as we grow?
3. How can we plan to break down inequalities across Toronto?

Discussions related to environment, housing, communities, transportation, infrastructure, equity, jobs, Indigenous rights and heritage, and good governance are documented under the relevant sections below.

The summaries in the subsequent sections reflect input received through the various consultation activities completed with a wide range of audiences during Phase 1 engagement. These are overall summaries that do not provide verbatim documentation of input shared through engagement.

### **3.2.1 What are the biggest challenges facing Toronto as we grow?**

Identifying the key challenges that need to be addressed through the Official Plan review is key to understanding both immediate as well as long-term concerns that could be addressed through Official Plan policies. Input on this question has been grouped into nine key themes with associated summary bullets of the input received.

#### **1. Protecting the environment and acting on climate change. Challenges raised included:**

- Resilience to climate change
- Access to the ravine system and natural recreation areas for all
- Growth that conflicts with environmentally protected or sensitive areas
- Heat Island effect from increased urbanization
- Low-carbon development, need for incentives for green design
- Overdevelopment leading to pollution and contaminant runoff to water bodies and groundwater

#### **2. Access to housing for all, as a right. Challenges raised included:**

- Lack of funding for social housing
- Lack of support for co-op housing
- Reductions in low-density housing
- Evictions and lack of affordable rental housing
- Financialization of housing - gentrification and displacement due to rising cost of living, housing being treated as an investment vehicle
- Human-rights focused approach to housing (e.g. HousingTO)
- Need for more deeply affordable housing in proximity to transit (that Inclusionary Zoning does not cater to)

#### **3. Communities designed for all residents to thrive. Challenges raised included:**

- Planning for an aging population and for young families, together
- Need for community facilities to support development, including access to reliable internet and communications technologies
- Access to parks and recreational areas to support a range of activities
- Managing noise from construction and traffic
- Community connections and cohesion
- Equitable access to amenities across neighbourhoods (banking, social services, etc.)
- Isolation of vulnerable populations in particular pockets of the city
- Loss of heritage properties

- Hyper-intensification and density that is out of sync with local planning and exceeds transit capacity to support mobility of new residents
- Growth that is inclusive of vulnerable populations
- Safety in neighbourhoods, particularly for women, BIPOC residents, and youth
- Planning for mixed income neighbourhoods and reduced economic disparity across the city
- Spaces and opportunities for youth development and recreation
- Planning for a non-policing oriented mental health response
- Accessibility in design of housing and communities
- Social services support for newcomers to Toronto
- Comprehensive supports for people in need of shelters, mental health and addiction services, family supports and childcare, etc.
- Access to affordable and nutritious food
- Addressing the increase in food deserts across the city

**4. Mobility and access to comfortable, reliable, safe and efficient transportation.**

**Challenges raised included:**

- Access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists – ‘pedestrian bill of rights’
- Accessibility for people with disabilities
- Access to transit
- Equitable connectivity to key employment centers

**5. Infrastructure to support growth. Challenges raised included:**

- Funding to support expansion and design of infrastructure
- Waste collection and water servicing
- Overcapacity transit system

**6. Equity and eliminating systemic discrimination in planning and decision-making. Challenges raised included:**

- Systemic racism and over-policing, including on transit (enforcement)
- Lack of accountability to communities on equity considerations in planning
- Response to encampments - evictions of unhoused residents from parks/public areas
- Access to transit in both outer and inner suburbs

**7. Job growth and access to a range of employment opportunities across the city. Challenges raised included:**

- Systemic barriers to employment opportunities

- Supporting small and medium sized businesses

**8. Indigenous rights and perspectives. Challenges raised included:**

- Preserving and embedding Indigenous perspectives and heritage in planning
- Building relationships with Indigenous communities, centering truth and reconciliation

**9. Good governance and community-based decision-making. Challenges raised included:**

- Inconsistencies with implementation of policies
- High emphasis of land and property owner rights vs. other residents
- Politicization of housing policy and access
- Cost of development (municipal fees) and speed of approval processes
- Need for more community awareness on decision-making and planning processes
- Need for more collaborative planning with communities
- Prescriptiveness of existing policies around development design

### **3.2.2 What do you value most about Toronto that you think should be sustained or replicated as we grow?**

In identifying what needs to be reviewed and changed for the City's Official Plan, conversations in Phase 1 explored what residents feel is working in their neighbourhoods, communities, and across the city, that should be maintained and could be expanded to other areas as we plan for the next 30 years of growth. Input on this question has been grouped into five key themes with associated summary bullets of the input received.

**1. Communities designed for all residents to thrive**

- Spread of small-scale retail and commercial in neighbourhoods across the city, to support local business
- Active main streets e.g. Danforth, Bloor
- Libraries and community centers across the city
- Walkable, mixed use neighbourhoods
- Ability to embrace change and plan for the future
- Vibrancy of commercial and retail streets into the evenings – 'nightlife'
- Higher density near transit to support walkability
- Child and family friendly community design

## **2. Mobility and access to comfortable, reliable, safe and efficient transportation**

- Widen the access to transit that exists in some neighbourhoods to be city-wide
- Cycling improvements downtown need to be replicated throughout the city

## **3. Cultural diversity and supporting community cohesion**

- Local and family-owned businesses that reflect diversity in neighbourhoods
- Multi-lingual and multicultural programming
- Keeping history alive
- Support arts and culture in communities

## **4. Recreational areas accessible to all**

- Recreational and green areas
- Accessible beaches
- Expanded tree canopy and parks
- Waterfront access and spaces for rest

## **5. Creative ways to build and accommodate more people**

- Laneway suites and ways to add more housing across the city
- Adding to Toronto's unique city skyline with more interesting architecture and flexibility in design

### **3.2.3 How can we plan to break down inequalities across Toronto?**

A central objective of the Our Plan Toronto process is to address inequalities and identify meaningful and impactful ways to establish more equitable communities with access to resources and opportunities across the city. The Community Leaders Circle contributions to this initial discussion are presented here. Input on this question has been grouped into five key themes with associated summary bullets of the input received.

#### **1. Communities designed for all residents to thrive**

- Establish incentives for businesses and services to locate in communities that are disconnected from retail and commercial areas
- Apply a data-based analysis to identify community needs and plan accordingly
- Identify communities and neighbourhoods that are not currently benefitting from policies in the Official Plan and remove discriminatory policies

- More mixed use and planning for Inclusionary Zoning policies to expand to every neighbourhoods
- Apply Community Benefits agreements to the most needed services in communities
- Addressing the social determinants of health through planning

**2. Access to housing for all, as a right**

- Support increase in rental housing stock, including for larger families
- Eliminate barriers to affordable housing development
- Establish requirements around amount of housing across the spectrum in neighbourhoods, manage opposition through early planning
- Support the creation of neighbourhood land trusts that preserve land for affordable housing

**3. Job growth and access to a range of employment opportunities across the city**

- Plan for economic growth in communities with higher unemployment, locating of major job creators in these areas
- Need for greater employment diversity to support middle income growth
- Support housing and residential growth in proximity to major commercial, business, and industrial areas

**4. Mobility and access to comfortable, reliable, safe and efficient transportation**

- Prioritize implementation of cycling connections in neighbourhoods that are disconnected and where the need is greatest, replicating and expanding on existing networks
- Improve transit access and reliability throughout the suburbs

**5. Equity and eliminating systemic discrimination in planning and decision-making**

- Center the City's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Plan in the context of planning for growth
- Center community voices in planning and establish planning principles around community-based planning, with a focus on diversity of views and lived experiences



## 4 Next Steps

The feedback received during Phase 1 of Our Plan Toronto is being used to craft the vision and priorities for 2051 through learning and sharing. Phase 2 of the consultation will be focused on discussing the policy expectations for 2051 related to the big topics of growth.

The next steps in the engagement process include:

- Smaller focused meetings on key themes with stakeholders to discuss environment and climate change, affordable housing and intensification, future of work and employment areas, and neighbourhoods and complete communities
- Launch the project video and poll
- Continue with follow-up discussions with Indigenous rights holders, community leaders, Indigenous organizations, stakeholders
- Website updates, including sharing summary of Phase 1 input

For more information please visit: [Toronto Our Plan Webpage](#)