



Summer Safety Plan



June 2026

Land Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The City also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

African Ancestral Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges all Treaty peoples—including those who came here as settlers—as migrants either in this generation or in generations past—and those of us who came here involuntarily, particularly those brought to these lands as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery. We pay tribute to those ancestors of African origin and descent.



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Letter from The Mayor

Dear Toronto,

I'm pleased to present Toronto's 2026 Summer Safety Plan – our annual approach to prevent, intervene and respond to violence so we can keep youth and communities safe.

Last year, we launched our first Summer Safety Plan and we saw excellent results. The Plan's programs and initiatives reached 15,000 young people and engaged 550 parents and caregivers. Over 1,800 youth found a safe space through recreational drop-ins across 45 school sites, and 5,000 residents through community events.

The result of this sustained engagement with youth and communities was a 40% reduction in youth violence. A result only made possible through the collective efforts of all orders of government, community organizations, City divisions, Toronto Police Services and many sectors across Toronto.

This year we hope to engage as many youth, families and communities as possible in programming that keeps everyone safe and enhances community wellbeing.

Our goal is always the same: to connect Toronto's youth and families to opportunities that help ensure summer is a safe, vibrant, and positive time for all.

Each year, we know that during the summer months, the risk of violence can rise. With school out, more people outdoors, and



fewer structured activities, there is added pressure in neighbourhoods around the City. The Summer Safety Plan intentional in focusing resources where and when they are needed most.

This plan was built with and for Toronto's young people and those who love and support them. Through many conversations across our neighbourhoods, this plan reflects your ideas, experiences and hopes for a safer, stronger Toronto.

Thank you to all our community partners, including Toronto Community Housing, Toronto District School Board, Toronto Catholic District School Board, Toronto Police Service and everyone else who contributed.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Olivia Chow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Olivia Chow Mayor of Toronto

Letter from The Chief of Police

Summer in Toronto is a vibrant and exciting time, as our city comes alive with events, gatherings, and outdoor activities. As a police service, our responsibility is to ensure that residents and visitors alike can enjoy this time safely. This includes young people who are on their summer break and have more time on their hands.

In addition to enforcing the law, the Toronto Police Service continues to prioritize prevention and initiatives that build trust and contribute to stronger communities. Our Neighbourhood Community Officer (NCO) Program plays a key role in this work. Last year, we expanded the program, including on the TTC, and we recently opened a Community Safety Hub in the Lawrence Heights area. NCOs are embedded in our communities and often know people by their first name. They are a trusted presence with a hyper local approach who can connect individuals with the resources they need and help resolve conflicts before they escalate.

Over the summer, our NCOs will be leading a series of programs and activities ranging from education and sports to community building. These moments will offer opportunities for kids to connect with police officers and learn about things like building confidence and career development. Other programs will allow people of all ages to learn more about crime prevention.

While these initiatives are designed to engage youth throughout the summer, they are also part of our broader Community Safety and Well Being Operational



Roadmap, and fall primarily under two key pillars: partnering better and hyper localizing our approach. They also support one of our top priorities, which is to strengthen trust.

We ended 2025 with multiple community safety indicators trending downward compared to the previous year, including homicides and shootings. So far in 2026, the number of homicides in Toronto is at its lowest level in years, and some other indicators continue to move in the right direction. We are committed to doing everything we can to continue achieving positive results, including providing alternative opportunities for at risk youth and equipping them with the tools they need to succeed.

Toronto's 2026 Summer Safety Plan is a strong example of the kind of partnership that can deliver both immediate and long term benefits by empowering families, strengthening community engagement, and taking proactive measures to prevent harm.

On behalf of the Toronto Police Service: we wish you a safe, healthy, and active summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Demkiw'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Myron Demkiw, M.O.M.
Chief of Police, Toronto Police Service

Tracking Progress on Youth Safety in Toronto

Following a rise in youth violence in 2024, the City of Toronto launched a coordinated, city-wide response through the Mayor's Youth Safety Task Force. This effort brought together City divisions, agencies, community organizations, school boards, the Toronto Police Service and other partners to take targeted, local action to support the safety and wellbeing of young people across Toronto.

Recent data points to encouraging trends, including a decline in shooting incidents and a lower proportion of incidents involving youth. The summer of 2025 also saw meaningful progress with a reduction in gun violence of 40%. While violence trends remain complex, these patterns reflect the collective efforts of community partners, City divisions, the Toronto Police Service and organizations working together. They reinforce the importance of strong partnerships, coordinated services, and sustained investments in programs that prevent violence before it starts.



Summer Safety Plan

The 2026 Summer Safety Plan is expanding opportunities, fostering connections and creating supportive environments where young people can thrive. By focusing on the needs of local communities and neighbourhoods, the City is investing in and directing resources to areas of greatest impact by expanding safe spaces, supporting community events, and increasing youth engagement—advancing both violence prevention and community healing.

The Summer Safety Plan brings together a list of all available programs, services and events that help young people feel safe and supported in their communities—from sports and arts programming, to job training and mental health supports, as well as extended hours for community spaces.

The City is strengthening its approach in 2026. The Summer Safety Plan will be more accessible to youth and families through an enhanced online search tool, making it easier to find programs and events across the city. This improved access increases awareness, reduces barriers to participation and helps connect young people and families to opportunities that are there to support them.

Goals of the Summer Safety Plan:

Prevent Violence & Promote Safety

Take proactive measures to prevent harm and create a safer community for all.

Invest in Youth Development

Provide programs, activities, and opportunities that help young people build skills, secure jobs, grow personally and access safe spaces.

Empower Parents & Caregivers

Offer resources and services that empower parents and caregivers with the tools they need to support youth effectively.

Strengthen Community Engagement

Encourage participation in local summer activities and events to foster a collaborative, community-driven approach to safety.

Summer Safety Plan at a Glance

Over \$5M

invested to support youth and safer communities in 2026

Over 16,000

City of Toronto jobs available for youth over the summer and throughout the year, with over 200 new opportunities available

Over 5000

youth receiving mental health supports and training

Over 500

families, parents/caregivers will be engaged in youth violence prevention programs and workshops

35 Parks and Recreation

youth drop-in programming available at Toronto District School Board schools

Over 200

youth and family programs and events available during the summer

Intergovernment Investment is Strengthening Impact

The 2026 Summer Safety Plan brings together coordinated action and investment across all three orders of government to support safer communities for youth.



Federal funding through the Building Safer Communities Fund is sustaining key prevention and intervention programs, such as TO Wards Peace and Family Wellbeing Supports, while the City's renewed \$5 million investment is advancing targeted, local initiatives across Toronto. Also, the City of Toronto is collaborating with Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ontario Court of Justice, Toronto Police Service, Legal Aid Ontario and a broad range of community partners to operate the OCJ-T Youth Justice Centre (JC), which is enhancing all stages of the youth criminal justice system process for all young persons charged in the City of Toronto. Building on input from youth with lived-experience in the youth criminal justice system, the OCJ T Youth JC brings together community and justice supports by connecting youth (ages 12–17) with wrap around, culturally relevant services provided by the City of Toronto and other community organizations, with an emphasis on early intervention. The OCJ-T Youth JC model also includes onsite supports at the Toronto Courthouse on 10 Armoury Street, along with five Satellite JC locations in neighbourhoods across the city to provide accessible, community-based services and supports.

These investments are shaped by evidence and community insights, helping to better align programs with local needs and strengthen outcomes for young people. Working together across governments enhances the overall impact of the Plan and reflects a shared commitment to prevention, partnership, and community safety.

Key Learnings from the 2025 Summer Safety Plan Evaluation

The 2025 Summer Safety Plan evaluation demonstrated strong reach and positive impact for youth, families, and communities across Toronto. Key highlights include:

140 programs delivered, engaging more than 15,000 youth throughout the summer.



More than 1,800 youth participated in recreational drop-ins and safe spaces,



Over 50 community events engaged more than 5,000 residents in safety and wellbeing initiatives.



Key Learnings from the 2025 Summer Safety Plan Evaluation

Findings from the 2025 Summer Safety Plan highlight what makes youth programs most effective in supporting safety and well-being. The evaluation offered a unique, citywide perspective—bringing together insights from multiple City divisions, partners, and community agencies to understand how collective efforts contribute to a shared goal of youth safety and well-being.

Targeted supports make a difference:

Programs that are designed to support youth who may be experiencing higher levels of risk have the greatest impact, helping to address challenges early and provide the right supports at the right time.

Safe spaces are essential during the summer:

Access to welcoming, youth-friendly spaces plays a critical role in promoting safety. These environments provide places for youth to spend time in positive, supervised settings when school is out.

Positive relationships support well-being:

Opportunities to connect with peers and build relationships with trusted adults—such as mentors and program staff—help foster a sense of belonging and support positive decision-making.

Consistent programming supports positive engagement:

Structured activities throughout the summer help keep youth engaged, build skills, and create pathways for ongoing participation in community programs.

The 2026 evaluation will examine how well services are coordinated across systems and whether investments are driving meaningful outcomes for youth and communities. It will also assess how effectively programs are reaching youth across the city, including the impact of the new online program search tool in expanding reach and improving accessibility so youth and families can more easily find and connect with supports.



Community Voices



The Summer Safety Plan relies on community voices to understand what's needed to prevent gun violence and support safer neighbourhoods across Toronto. Through a partnership between the City of Toronto's Safe TO Centre for Data and Analytics and The Centre for Research & Innovation for Black Survivors of Homicide Victims (The CRIB), more than 100 participants—including youth, service providers, and individuals with lived experience—shared their perspectives through 42 community-led interviews. Strong representation came from neighbourhoods such as Regent Park, Moss Park, and Kingsview Village–The Westway, with trained Neighbourhood Ambassadors leading conversations to reflect local realities. The insights are captured in the report *Community-Validated Findings and a Framework for the Prevention of Gun Violence*, which will be released later in the summer, and include the following findings:

Community findings emphasize:

Understanding what drives violence

Participants said violence is often linked to poverty, exclusion, and limited access to opportunity, along with the lasting impacts of trauma. These challenges are made worse by social media pressures, access to firearms, and low trust in institutions, increasing risk and making it harder to break cycles of harm.

Moving towards decision-making

Because of these realities, participants emphasized that lived experience should be recognized as expertise, with community members meaningfully involved in shaping research, policy and implementation.

Using data that reflects real experiences

Participants also highlighted the need for community members to help guide how data is used, with recognition for their contributions, so it better reflects lived realities and leads to more meaningful outcomes.

These findings support place-based approaches — They align with Safe TO's and the Summer Safety Plan's focus on community leadership, targeted neighbourhood investments, and locally driven solutions that prevent violence and promote long-term wellbeing.



Community Consultation Sessions on the 2026 City of Toronto Summer Safety Plan

- In spring 2026, the City of Toronto hosted more than 18 consultation sessions with over 350 participants, including youth, parents, caregivers, frontline workers, and community organizations.
- Sessions were held across the City in virtual and in-person formats to gather feedback and inform priorities for the 2026 Summer Safety Plan.
- Community members shared perspectives on local safety concerns, service gaps, and the types of supports and opportunities youth need during the summer months.

Here's what we heard:

- Participants consistently spoke about the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for youth during the summer through accessible programs, safe gathering spaces, and positive community connections. Many noted that structured activities help reduce isolation, strengthen wellbeing, and provide alternatives to harmful situations.
- There was strong interest in sports, arts, camps, mentorship, leadership development, employment opportunities, and mental health supports. Participants also highlighted the importance of programs that support both youth and families together.

"Community centres, parks, or public spaces gives us opportunities to attend programs/activities that can enhance our skills/ possible interest, social/ friend bonding, not being on the phone and being more engaged with what and who is around us which creates a safe feeling".

- Youth Participant



- A recurring theme was the need for opportunities that allow youth to experience activities outside of their immediate neighbourhoods, including cultural, recreational, and outdoor experiences across the city.

SafeTO's Place-Based Planning in Practice



A key component of SafeTO is continuous place-based, population-focused safety planning i.e. a year-round effort to improve safety by responding to the specific strengths and needs of a neighborhood or community. Instead of using the same solution everywhere, this approach brings together government institutions, local leaders, residents, schools, businesses, community organizations and safety networks to address the root causes of safety concerns in each area. It also includes targeted programs, initiatives and services, aimed at violence prevention, intervention, response and recovery.

Although the Summer Safety Plan has a city-wide impact, it also prioritizes more targeted, place-based efforts in communities experiencing higher levels of violence and limited supports. Many participants shared experiences of violence exposure or difficulty accessing supports, reinforcing the importance of bringing prevention, intervention and community-based supports directly into neighbourhoods where they were needed most.

The results were strong and encouraging:

About 90%

of youth said they felt more connected and better able to handle conflict and safety challenges.

Over 90%

said these programs help make communities safer when continued.

The work showed that safety efforts need to be local, ongoing, and tailored to each neighbourhood. It also reinforced that supporting communities means not only preventing violence, but helping people feel prepared, connected, and able to support one another when it matters most. Sustained presence and coordination are needed to turn engagement into meaningful safety outcomes at scale.

2026 Place-Based Approach

This year, the approach will continue to deepen and expand community partnerships:

- Partnering with local organizations, housing providers, and businesses to reach youth in different settings.
- Delivering on-the-ground supports like pop-up events, safety training, community programs, and crisis response initiatives.
- Building on community assets and supporting what works.

Together, these efforts bring practical, locally informed supports directly into communities—helping prevent violence and strengthen safety where it's needed most.



Investing in Youth Pathways Drives Long-Term Safety

The 2026 Summer Safety Plan prioritizes youth employment as a key prevention strategy—creating pathways that support long-term well-being.

The 2026 Summer Safety Plan prioritizes youth employment as a key prevention strategy—creating pathways that support long-term well-being. The City of Toronto continues to lead nationally in public-sector youth employment, hiring more than 16,000 youth each year across divisions, agencies, and community partnerships. This summer, thousands of youth will be employed through various City divisions and agencies, with key opportunities including summer hiring with Parks and Recreation summer hiring, and FIFA World Cup 2026™ legacy programs. These opportunities support meaningful work experiences and skills development.

In addition, the City continues to expand opportunities for youth through the Youth Employment Table. Co-chaired by the City of Toronto and United Way Greater Toronto, the table brings together 13 community organizations, employers, funders, City divisions, and youth-serving partners to improve coordination and expand pathways to employment for youth across Toronto. Early initiatives include a dedicated youth employment website and chatbot, developed with the United Way Greater Toronto, Findhelp and The Neighbourhood Group Community Services, to help youth more easily connect to summer jobs, employment programs, and related supports across the city.

Click here to access the portal: [Summer Jobs Initiative | 211 Central | 211 Central](#)



Key Partners:

City of Toronto

- Social Development Division
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division
- Toronto Public Health
- Economic Development & Culture Division

**Toronto Community
Housing Corporation**

**Toronto
Police
Service**

**Toronto
Public Library**

**Toronto District School
Board & Toronto Catholic
District School Board**

**Community-based organizations
and grassroots groups
providing youth programming
and mentorship**

**Parents and
caregiver
networks**

**Ministry of
Attorney General,
Justice Centers**

**Ministry of Children,
Community and Social
Services**

Instructions on Accessing the Youth Program List



The 2026 Summer Safety Plan Program List can be accessed in two ways to help youth and families find programs, events, and supports across the city. Click on <https://www.toronto.ca/SummerSafetyPlan> to access the:

Program & Event List

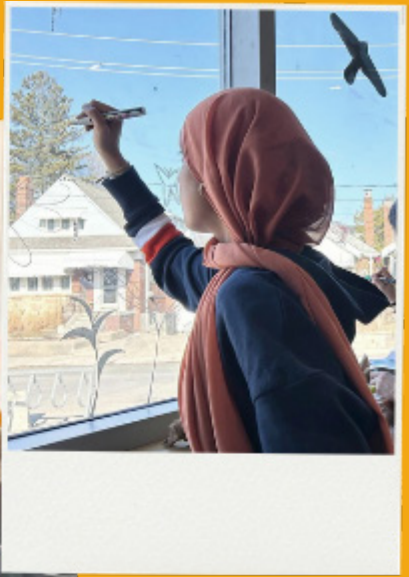
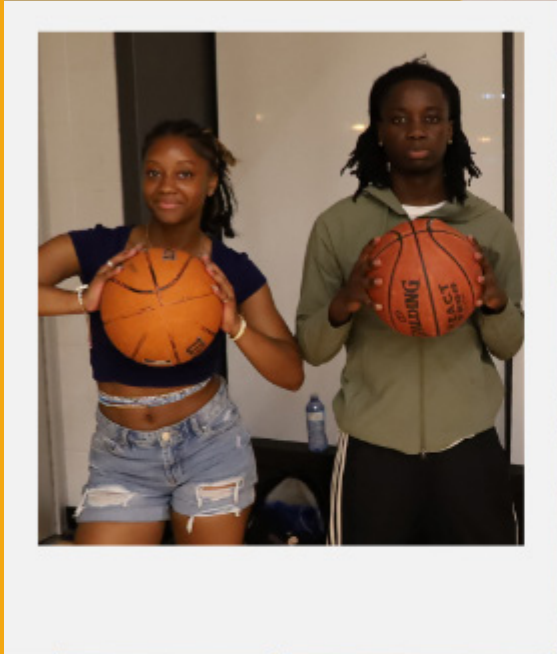
Browse more than 200 summer programs and events by searching keywords such as "summer camps," "sports," "leadership," "mental health," and more. You can also narrow your search by age group, type of program or event, and whether registration is required.

Program & Event Map

Use the interactive map to find summer programs and events happening near you. You can explore programs based on your age group, interests, program type, and registration needs.

***Only programs that provided exact location information are included in the map search feature.

These search tools are designed to make it easier for youth and families to find programs, services, and events that meet their needs during the summer months. Additional programs and events will continue to be added throughout July and August as community partners continue to share summer opportunities and activities with the City of Toronto.



Community Events Kit



Summer is the perfect time to connect, celebrate, and build stronger communities!

Whether you are organizing a block party, a youth gathering, a cultural celebration, or a community safety event, this guide offers tips and considerations to help you navigate the process smoothly.

1. Planning A Local Event

Before you start, ask yourself:

- What is the goal of this event? (Fun, awareness, fundraising, engagement?)
- Who is your audience? (Youth, families, the whole neighborhood?)
- What space do you need? (Park, community centre, closed street?)
- Do you need partnerships and/or funding? (Local businesses, City agencies, non-profits?)
- How will you make the event enjoyable and accessible for everyone? (Accessible spaces, low or no cost activities, multiple languages?)

Use these answers to shape your event plan and ensure a smooth process.



2. Permits & Approvals

Some events may require permits from the City. Event organizers are encouraged to [visit the City's website](#) to assist with planning your special event in Toronto and link to relevant contacts, checklists, required forms and guides.



Example 1: A group of residents is organizing a local block party to get to know their neighbours. They wish to close a side street, put up some inflatable bouncy castles, have a BBQ, and perhaps invite police and fire to provide community information.



Step 1: Obtain a Transportation – [Temporary Street Closure Permit](#)

- Create a site map of the proposed street and activities for submission with your application
- If required by Toronto Transportation, submit a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for closure that may impact vehicular traffic or building access;
- Submit an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), which is required by the City's Office of Emergency Management.
- Provide a Certificate of Insurance to facilitate the Street Closure

Step 2: Notify impacted residents and business of the street closure

- Provide potential street closure signs and road barricades, depending on the nature of the street

Step 3: Complete an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and submit the information using the [Toronto Emergency Management online portal](#)

Step 4: Submit a [Public Health Temporary Food Establishment Package](#)

- Ensure BBQs are operated within safety standards

Step 5: Contact your local Toronto Police Division – Community Response Unit or Neighbourhood Community Office about an appearance.

- Contact the Toronto Police Paid Duty office to book any Paid Duty officers that may be required for road closures.
- Note: Opening a new client account usually requires a minimum of 2 weeks, and full payment must be made in advance.
- Don't know your neighbourhood? Find it here: <https://www.tps.ca/my-neighbourhood/>

Example 2: A local soccer club wishes to host a tournament and end of season party in their local park. They wish to erect a small stage for entertainment and serve food. Based on this information, the group would be required to:



Step 1: [Obtain a Parks & Recreation – Special Events Permit for a City of Toronto Park](#)

- Create a site map of the park, noting activities and structures, for submission with your application
- Potentially apply for a Building Permit if tent is over 60 sqm/600 sqf
- Provide a Certificate of Insurance to facilitate the Parks & Recreation permit and Toronto Building Services Permit

Step 2: Contact the Toronto Police Paid Duty office once you have received your Special Event Permit and consulted with Parks and Recreation to book any Paid Duty officers that may be required. Be sure to also contact your local Toronto Police Division for their awareness.

Step 3: If using amplified sound, contact Municipal Licensing and Standards and apply for a Noise By-law exemption (if required, based on hours of operations)

Step 4: Submit a Public Health Temporary Food Establishment Application Organizers & Vendor Packages

- Ensure BBQs are operated within safety standards
- Develop a Solid Waste Management Plan for your event

For general questions, please contact Event Support at eventsupport@toronto.ca or 416-395-0490.

Tip: Start your permit applications early! Some approvals take a few weeks.

Example 3: A group of TCHC residents are planning to celebrate their neighbour's birthday. They wish to invite everyone to their building's community room for cake and refreshments. Based on this information, the group would be required to:



Step 1: Complete and submit the "One-Time Use of Space Application" Form.

Step 2: Follow all instructions outlined on the "One-Time Use of Space Application" Form on the day of your event.

For questions about one-time use of space for community events, please contact the Use of Space team by emailing useofspace@torontohousing.ca or calling 416-981-5051.

Step 3: Safety Planning

Ensuring a safe environment is key to a successful event. It is important to understand the policy and procedures for the setting that your event is in, including the relevant fire safety and emergency protocols.

The Toronto Police Service can also be a resource for community safety planning and advice. To find and contact your local police division, visit: <https://www.tps.ca/my-neighbourhood/>

For help connecting to local community organizations, safety networks, resources and funding opportunities, reach out to the City of Toronto's [Community Development Officers](#) to support your planning and ensure your summer gatherings are safe and successful.