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**2018 TORONTO ELECTION**

**CANDIDATE PLEDGE ON POVERTY REDUCTION**

*Given that:*

* *Toronto has the highest rates of child and adult poverty among large cities in Canada*
* *Poverty costs Toronto $5 billion a year in health and social service costs, and lost taxes*
* *Indigenous People, people of colour, people with disabilities, women, LGBTQ+ and newcomers experience particularly high levels of poverty*
* *Thousands of residents wait years for housing, child care and recreation programs*
* *Torontonians face economic difficulties and have trouble making ends meet.*

**I PLEDGE, if elected to Toronto Council, to work with community, business and faith leaders to reduce poverty and inequality in Toronto, and to support the full funding and full implementation of Toronto’s Poverty Reduction Strategy (TO Prosperity) and other Council-approved equity initiatives over the 2019-2022 term, including the following approved actions:**

* 7,200 new supportive housing units, at least 8,000 new deeply affordable rental housing units, and 1,000 new shelter spaces
* Reduced TTC fares for an additional 157,000 lower-income adults
* 11,500 new child care spaces, including 5,000 subsidized spaces
* 40,000 new recreation program spaces

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(please print)

Elected Position Sought (including Ward): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail, fax or scan/email your completed pledge, by August 31, 2018, to:**

Israt Ahmed, 2 Carlton Street, Suite 1001, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 1J3, Fax: (416) 351-0107, commitmenttocommunity2018@gmail.com

***Commitment TO Community*** *(*[*CommitmentTO.com*](http://www.commitmentTO.com)*) is a coalition of individuals and groups that support engagement and advocacy by thousands of residents across Toronto on local priorities.*

***Faith in the City*** *(*[*faithinthecity.ca*](file:///C:\Users\michpo\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\B0O6EPD9\faithinthecity.ca)*) is an alliance of leaders from various faith traditions who share issues of common social concern.*

[*www.ProsperityPlatform.ca*](http://www.ProsperityPlatform.ca)

**Notes on (and links to) key commitments in Toronto’s Poverty Reduction Strategy and related Equity initiatives:**

City Council unanimously [approved](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.EX9.5) TO Prosperity, Toronto’s Poverty Reduction Strategy, on November 3, 2015.

The Strategy includes [71 actions](https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-84626.pdf) to improve housing stability, service access, transit equity, food access, and quality jobs and livable incomes.

City Council has also approved the following actions:

**HOUSING**: On February 12, 2018, Council [committed](https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/bu/bgrd/backgroundfile-111704.pdf) to create 1,000 new emergency shelter spaces as soon as possible. The total operating budget impact (2019-2021) is $60.2 million.  On March 26, 2018, City Council [committed](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.CD26.5) to build 7,200 new supportive housing units between 2019 and 2022.  Assuming on-going provincial Home for Good Program funding, the capital cost impact for the City is approximately $110,000 per unit, in addition to City Open Door Affordable Housing Program incentives. In 2009, Council [endorsed](http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2009.EX33.47) Housing Opportunities Toronto, committing to build 10,000 new affordable rental housing units by 2019 (new targets for 2020-2030 are currently being determined). In addition to Open Door Program incentives, the capital cost impact for the City under the last two annual Open Door Calls for Applications is an average of $23,000 per unit.

**TRANSIT**: On December 13, 2016, Council [committed](https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2016/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-98467.pdf) to implement, by 2020, a Fair Pass program, providing TTC discounts of 33% on single fares and 21% on monthly transit passes for 193,000 people on OW and ODSP, receiving housing or child care subsidies, or earning less than the Low Income Measure plus 15%. The total operating budget impact by 2020 is $43.6 million.

**CHILD CARE**: On April 26, 2017, Council [approved](https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-102452.pdf) the City’s Child Care Growth Strategy, which includes the construction of 11,500 new child care spaces between 2019 and 2022 (40-50% of which are to be subsidized). The total operating budget impact by 2022 is $44 million.

**RECREATION**: On December 5, 2017, Council [approved](https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2017/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-108888.pdf) the Community Recreation Growth Plan, which includes a commitment to create 60,000 new recreation program spaces by 2020, of which 20,000 were approved for 2018. The total operating budget impact by 2020 is $1.5 million.

## **EQUITY**: In addition to the Poverty Reduction Strategy, key Equity Initiatives approved by City Council include the Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism, the Toronto Strong Neighborhoods Strategy, the Community Grants Policy, the Seniors Strategy, the Newcomers Strategy, the Youth Equity Strategy, the Middle Childhood Strategy, the Housing Opportunities Toronto 2010-2020 Action Plan and the Welcome Policy. In addition, Council has made a commitment to Gender and Equity Budgeting. Council also recently approved an Indigenous Affairs Office and a Toronto Newcomer Office.