

January 26, 2022  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen St. W, Toronto  
Attn: Executive Committee

**RE: EX29.9 Budgeting for the City of Toronto's Future**

To Mayor Tory and Councillors of the Executive Committee,

We are submitting this joint letter on behalf of five local civil society organizations who advocate for a more equitable and sustainable Toronto. This motion "Budgeting for the City of Toronto's Future" is an important step to mitigate the chronic underfunding of the City's essential services and community needs.

To contribute to understanding the full scale of investment needed, and lacking, for essential programs, services, and capital projects, we support the preparation of "*a report of outstanding Council approved budget requests, operational costs, and capital improvements in advance of determining the tax-supported budget*".

Furthermore, we strongly urge the Council to direct the City Manager and Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer to move forward with recommending options for additional revenue streams to meet the critical and dire needs of our city. Revenue tools implemented by the City should uphold the following:

**Fairness, equity, and justice**

- An intersectional equity analysis, conducted in collaboration with community partners, should guide any decisions about which revenue tools are chosen and how they will be implemented. This will ensure they do not negatively or disproportionately impact low- and moderate-income residents
- In fact, they should be designed to advance equity, address income and wealth inequality, and improve outcomes to address poverty

**New revenue**

- Revenue tools must generate new revenue for the City to meet critical existing and emerging priorities, such as reconciliation, housing, transit, childcare, and the climate emergency, which must be *additional* to the City's current income streams

**Sustainability and longevity**

- Chosen tools should be a durable revenue source, generating good year-on-year funds from a sustainable source

**Transparent and Outcome focused**

- The public must be able to see and understand how revenue is generated and where it is spent
- Funds generated must be directed to critical publicly determined priorities
- Where applicable, consideration should be given to designing tools that include incentives/disincentives to achieve results such as the “polluter pays” principle

Sincerely,

**Social Planning Toronto**  
**Toronto Environmental Alliance**  
**Toronto Community Benefits Network**  
**Toronto ACORN**  
**Progress Toronto**