



2017 City Budget: \$91 Million Budget Hole Leaves Harmful Service Cuts on the Table for Toronto Communities

The City of Toronto's 2017 budget calls for \$10 million in service cuts and still has a \$91 million hole that leaves harmful service cuts on the table for Toronto communities, especially our most vulnerable neighbours. For the first time in memory, City finance staff have not brought forward a balanced budget. Instead, they have provided revenue and service options for Toronto City Council to balance its budget.

The choice is clear: The Mayor and City Council can make a responsible choice, implementing revenue-generating options that can raise nearly \$200 million in 2017 to stop the cuts and make meaningful investments in poverty reduction or it can endorse a long list of damaging service cuts.

\$10 million service cut proposed includes

- \$1.3 million in staffing cuts at long-term care homes
- Cuts to 200 frontline jobs in parks and maintenance
- \$30,000 cut to shut down emergency cooling program
- \$1.8 million cut to shelter, support and housing including over a million in staffing cuts
- Flatlining community services and more

\$76.8 million service cut "options" on the table include:

- Closure of 16 recreation facilities, 22 pools, 36 wading pools
- Cutting \$27.7 million out of shelter, support and housing including elimination of homeless prevention services at \$18.5 million
- \$622,000 in cuts to nonprofit community services and \$680,000 cut to the arts
- \$1.58 million cut to public health including over \$700,000 cut to student nutrition and over \$200,000 cut to dental programs
- \$6.19 million cut to public library hours and collections
- \$792,500 cut that would discontinue food production for Meals on Wheels programs
- Cuts to fire services, economic development, transportation services, and the conservation authority

Just one short year ago, the Mayor and Toronto City Council unanimously adopted TOProsperity, a bold plan for poverty reduction in Toronto. With one in four children and one in five adults living in poverty in Toronto, the plan recognizes the urgent need for action. However, in the 2016 City budget, City Council made only modest new investments, falling short of community goals in the first year of the plan by over 75%.

The 2017 City budget, not only fails to make meaningful new investment to reduce poverty, it threatens to reverse the modest gains made in last year's budget and make deep cuts to critical services for residents struggling with basic needs in our city.

It's Time to Take Action!

Contact your City Councillor

Make your voice heard: call, email or request a meeting with your City Councillor. Let them know you live in the ward and that you hope the City will be listening to their community by not cutting city services and investing in transit, affordable housing and programs and services in the 2017 budget. Find out who your City Councillor is by calling 311 or online at www.toronto.ca.

Attend a budget forum

Find out if your Councillor is holding a local budget forum – and attend it!

Make a deputation

Make a deputation on January 5, 9, or 10 at the budget committee hearings at one of the following locations:

Thursday January 5:

Scarborough Civic Centre, 50 Borough Dr ~ 3-5pm and 6pm onwards

Etobicoke Civic Centre, 399 The West Mall Etobicoke ~ 3-5pm and 6pm onwards

Monday January 9:

East York Civic Centre, 850 Coxwell Ave ~ 3-5pm and 6pm onwards

North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street ~ 3-5pm and 6pm onwards

Tuesday January 10:

City Hall, 100 Queen St W ~ 9:30-5 pm and 6 pm onwards

York Civic Centre, 2700 Eglinton Avenue West ~ 3-5 pm and 6 pm onwards

To make a deputation, you must register by email at buc@toronto.ca or call 416-392-4666.

Organize a community meeting

Consider bringing people in your neighbourhood together to host your own community meeting on the budget. Don't forget to invite your City Councillor!

Social Planning Toronto and C2C provides information and training sessions on:

- the city budget
- how to make a deputation
- tips on how to contact your City Councillor

Get in touch with us to learn more about how we can help.

Contact:

Susan Kwong at skwong@socialplanningtoronto.org or 416-562-8110

Michael Polanyi at mpolanyi@torontocas.ca or 416-924-4640 x 2989

Get updates on the budget

Sign up for Social Planning Toronto's City Budget Watch to receive regular updates on the budget process - contact Beth Wilson at beth@socialplanningtoronto.org