



Toronto Service Review - Take Action

Phase 2 Information – Commitment to Community

About the Commitment to Community Campaign:

C2C is supporting a citywide mobilization to protect Toronto residents against cuts to vital city services.

Mayor Rob Ford promised that his campaign to respect taxpayers would not mean cuts to services. “I will assure you that services will not be cut...guaranteed.” (Toronto Star, October 8, 2010). We intend to make sure that the mayor and City Council keep this promise.

Campaign Goals:

1) *Stop cuts to Community Grants:*

- a) We want to ensure that the City of Toronto does not cut vital programs that make this a fairer more equitable city for Torontonians. This means that we must work to prioritize stopping cuts to services that will disproportionately hurt Torontonians with low-incomes.
- b) Ultimately we need to secure that we have 23 votes at Council to protect the \$45 million in CPIP and the \$1 billion worth of grants the city currently transfers to not for profits organizations. (More precisely, our campaign is focused on protecting the \$20 million part of CPIP that excludes arts groups)
- c) In the meantime, we need to raise awareness about the speed and severity of the City’s austerity agenda and work to publicly discredit the “consultation” process

2) *Build a strong citywide network that can mobilize to defend public services across Toronto (beginning with the fight to save the CPIP grants).*

We are working to establish resident groups in all 44 wards in Toronto and we will focus special attention in mobilizing in 10 key swing wards where we believe we have the potential to influence “swing” Councillors

The 2012 Budget and the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP) – What’s at Stake for Toronto

The City’s CPIP grants make Toronto the kind of city that we all want to live in. CPIP grants help make our city:

Safer: Through supporting a variety of youth programs, safe walk home programs for women, community safety initiatives



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Healthier: Supporting sexual education, harm-reduction, community food programs, farmers markets, health care and mental health services for homeless people, self-help groups, as well as recreation programs and wellness workshops for seniors

Vibrant: Through community art projects, festivals, music programs that support the talents of our diverse communities and neighbourhoods

More Equitable: Providing free tax clinics, drop-ins, summer camp, march break programs for children and youth, affordable access to community spaces and housing placement supports for women fleeing violence

Prosperous: Resourcing BIAS, youth employment, newcomer employment and supports, computer training and literacy

Community Grants are a great investment in our city!

CPIP is a relatively small amount of money that has a huge impact on our city. Although it makes up less than 0.5% (\$43.5 million) of the City's overall budget, CPIP brings back ten times this amount in community investments (\$430 million) from other stakeholders, including provincial and federal governments, business and individual donations, participant fees, earned income and Foundation contributions.

Other Canadian cities like Calgary (\$66.72), Winnipeg (\$45.20), and Ottawa (\$40.73) spend a greater portion of their budget and far more per capita than Toronto (\$17.7) on investing in community grants.

CPIP funded programs make our city a community by offering us spaces to meet our neighbours, learn from one another and play together.

Our City Councillors and Mayor were elected to run a city that works well for all of us.

As Torontonians, we need to make sure that they do their job!

The Commitment to Community Campaign is organizing Torontonians to speak up for our City and the programs that make it great. Imagine if we had community groups organized in 44 wards across Toronto advocating for our city! Please get involved today. Sign up for our email list and get involved in your community: <http://socialplanningtoronto.org/c2c>



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Examples of the many kinds of community programs supported by CPIP include:

- community festivals (e.g. Grange Festival in the Park, Kingston-Galloway Community Festival Market - and 100's more each year)
- community/neighbourhood mediation
- community safety initiatives (resident planning and preparedness)
- children's literacy, arts and recreation programs
- youth leadership development, and youth Centre for Social Enterprise and Innovation
- youth drop-ins
- youth summer employment projects
- swimming lessons
- free or low-cost access to meeting and program spaces in the community
- seniors recreation (dance, singing, fitness, walking)
- elderly person's centres (workshops, support groups, drop-ins, self-help groups)
- adult drop-ins
- volunteer recruitment and support
- low cost music lessons for children and youth
- youth recreation (basketball, dance, boxing, fitness, weight training, bicycling, camping)
- seniors health and wellness (Tai chi classes, social support, group filed trips)
- after-school homework and recreation programs for youth
- summer camp, march and winter break programs for children and youth
- community picnics
- hundreds of community arts activities (dance, music, photography, film, community theatre)
- HIV/AIDS education & street outreach (provision of harm reduction materials and information to community members)
- safe sex education and condom distribution
- drug awareness workshops
- educational materials in different languages on HIV/AIDS and drugs
- educational materials for youth on HIV/AIDS and drugs
- homeless drop-ins
- housing placement supports
- eviction prevention
- meals for homeless people
- crisis intervention for homeless people
- access to health care for homeless people
- access to addiction services for homeless people
- access to mental health services for homeless people
- funding for Community Support and Crisis Intervention workers
- graffiti transformation and community mural programs
- admin supports for service delivery hubs