

Stronger City, Stronger Canada

The New Deal

For Toronto to thrive as a global city in the 21st century, a new relationship – a New Deal – is needed among the governments of Canada, Ontario and Toronto.

Without a New Deal, Toronto's ability to contribute to Canada's prosperity will be undermined. A New Deal means a stronger Toronto. A stronger city means a stronger Canada.

What the Government of Canada can do:

1. Share 5 cents/litre of the Federal fuel excise tax with Toronto and other cities to support investment in urban transit and transportation infrastructure.
2. Allow Toronto and other cities to invest in economic growth by retaining a share of locally-generated tax revenues that grow with the economy, such as the federal income or sales tax.
3. Provide Toronto with a "seat at the table" on key urban issues. This means consulting with City officials when developing policies, programs and budgets for public transit, affordable housing, immigration and settlement, community safety and childcare, and entering into government-to-government agreements where appropriate.

Key Facts:

- ◆ Canada's prosperity is closely tied to Toronto's success. Hence a stronger Toronto means a stronger Canada.
- ◆ City of Toronto residents and businesses made a net contribution (tax revenue less re-investment) to federal revenues of \$7.6 billion in 2000. The GTA net federal revenue contribution in 2000 was \$17 billion. (Source: Toronto Board of Trade, June 2002).
- ◆ Toronto generates roughly 10% of Canada's GDP with only 8% of Canada's population.

- ◆ Toronto is positioned in the global economy as “Canada’s head office city”, i.e. head office to more than one-third of the top 500 Canadian companies.
- ◆ Toronto is home to 80% of Canada’s largest R&D, law, advertising and high tech firms. It is at the centre of North America’s largest biomedical and biotechnology cluster and the continent’s second largest information and telecommunications cluster.

Want more information about Toronto’s need for a New Deal?

Visit: <http://www.canadascities.ca>

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Public Transit

An effective transit system is critical to maintaining Toronto's competitiveness and quality of life. Adequate, sustained funding for public transit is urgently needed to alleviate congestion in the GTA, protect the region's environment and support growth.

A strong public transit system keeps Toronto's people and economy moving!

What the Government of Canada can do:

1. Provide adequate, sustained funding for public transit renewal and growth.
 - Canada's hub city mayors have called on the Federal government to provide cities with a new net revenue source of 5 cents/litre of the federal fuel excise tax.
 - Canada remains the only G 8 country without a national transit investment program.
2. Work with Ontario and Toronto to ensure transit investment is targeted at locally-defined priorities and benefits the greatest number of people.
3. Amend the *Income Tax Act* to make employer-provided transit passes a tax-exempt benefit.
 - This change is a core recommendation of the National Roundtable on the Economy and Environment's report, "Environmental Quality in Canadian Cities: the Federal Role" (2003).

Key Facts:

- ◆ The TTC is the largest transit operator in Canada. It carries almost 1.4 million passengers daily and over 400 million annually. The TTC's fleet of 2400 vehicles provides 123 million miles of service per year.

- ◆ The TTC carries 90% of all local public transit ridership in the GTA and is the hub of the inter-regional transit network. 30% of GO Transit ridership use the TTC for part of their trip.
- ◆ The TTC is the most cost-efficient transit operation in North America with over 80% of operating costs recovered from revenue, primarily fares.
- ◆ The TTC's base capital plan requires \$4.0 billion over the next 10 years, or an average of \$400 million per year. With the original Yonge subway line now 50 years old and more vehicles, track and equipment reaching the end of their useful life, the base capital plan needs to focus (90%) on maintaining existing transit assets in a state-of-good-repair (SOGR).
- ◆ Strategies to increase ridership by 45 to 50 million new riders per year through improved service and fare incentives will require a capital investment of about \$504 million over the next 10 years above base capital needs, and a corresponding \$80 million in on-going annual operating costs.
- ◆ The TTC received \$62.3 million in federal funding in 2002 and \$13.7 million in 2003.
- ◆ On March 30, 2004, the governments of Canada, Ontario and Toronto announced a commitment to each provide an average of \$70 million per year over the next five years to support the TTC. Although welcome, this level of funding will only meet 50% of the TTC's base capital needs in the coming years. Without additional support, it will not be possible to implement the TTC's ridership growth strategy or expand the subway.

Want More Information about the TTC's Funding Requirements?

- ◆ Visit: www.toronto.ca/ttc/schedules/service_reports.htm
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Affordable Housing

In Toronto half of all households are tenants. Almost half of the city's tenants are paying more than 30% of their income on rent.

Rents have risen faster than incomes during the past five years. As the affordability of rental housing declines, many tenants, especially those with low incomes, face the risk of eviction and homelessness.

Toronto's affordable housing crisis undermines the City's economic competitiveness and quality of life in various ways. The shortage of affordable rental housing makes it difficult for Toronto's businesses to attract and retain a stable workforce. Local businesses also suffer when tenants' discretionary spending falls. Homelessness weakens social cohesion, business confidence, and the city's sense of pride and civility.

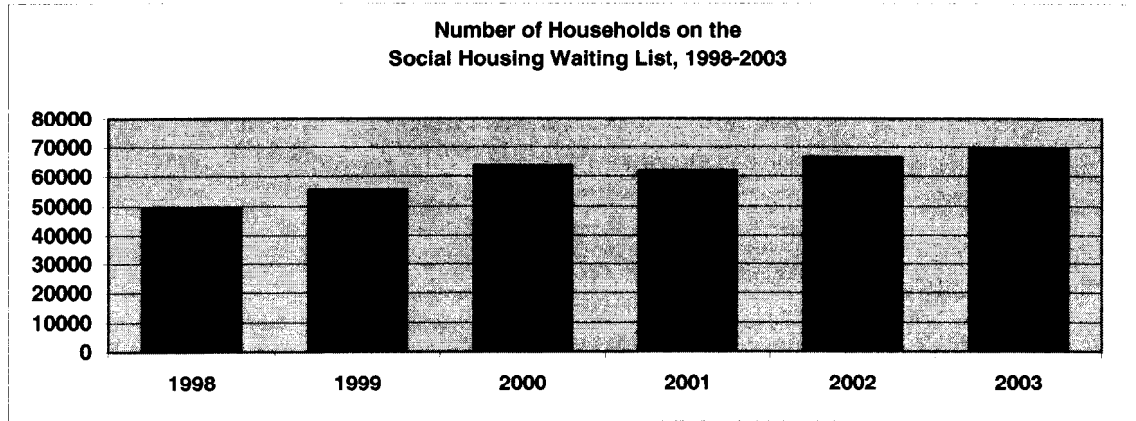
All three levels of government must work together to address Toronto's affordable housing crisis.

What the Government of Canada can do:

1. Provide the City of Toronto with a seat at the table in Federal/Provincial program and policy deliberations on housing and homelessness.
2. Work with the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario to speed up the delivery of funds under the national affordable housing program.
3. Fund rental housing at a level to produce units that are affordable to low income people.
4. Extend and increase financial support for the rehabilitation of substandard housing through the RRAP - Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, which helps existing affordable housing stock remain in the market.
5. Participate financially in public housing regeneration, e.g. Regent Park.
6. Introduce incentives to stimulate private sector development of affordable housing.
7. Extend the SCPI program beyond 2006 and include a permanent transitional housing fund for capital and operating.

Key Facts:

- ◆ One in five people in Toronto live in poverty, including 20% of all families and one third of all single people.



- ◆ There are now over 73,000 households on the waiting list for social housing, up from 49,000 in 1998.
- ◆ Since 1995, average rents have risen 33%. In the same period, the average weekly wage rose by 16%.
- ◆ Two thirds of the housing stock in the City of Toronto is over 30 years old. Some social housing projects are over 50 years old.
- ◆ Affordable housing is an important determinant of health.

Want more information about affordable housing in Toronto?

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Immigration and Settlement

Immigrants make significant contributions to the economic, social and cultural life of Toronto, the province and the nation. Successful settlement benefits everyone.

Although municipalities do not have formal jurisdiction in immigration, successful settlement requires integration into a local community, typically in a large city.

To be effective, federal and provincial immigration policies should be informed by the expertise of municipal and community-based immigrant service providers.

What the Government of Canada can do:

1. Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the governments of Toronto and Ontario. The MOU should establish a clear framework for advancing intergovernmental cooperation on immigration and settlement issues.

Key Facts:

- ◆ Toronto is home to 8% of Canada's population and 22% of all immigrants. One-half of Toronto residents are foreign born.
- ◆ Since 1996, the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area received an average of 90,000 immigrants each year, representing one-half of all arrivals to Canada. Of these, two out of three settled in the City of Toronto.
- ◆ Asia has become the primary source of new immigrants to Toronto: China (1996-2001: 46,000), India (1996-2001: 26,600) and Pakistan (1996-2001: 17,500).
- ◆ In 2002, 64% of immigrants were Economic class, 28% Family class and 8% Refugees.
- ◆ Recent immigrants are skilled and educated. In 2002, more than half had post-secondary education and 12% had Master's degrees or higher.
- ◆ It remains very difficult for internationally trained professionals who are new to Canada to secure employment in their field of expertise.

- It now takes approximately 12 years for the average immigrant to achieve wage parity with those born in Canada. In the 1980's, immigrants typically achieved wage parity with Canadian-born workers within 8 years.

Immigrant Settlement – The City of Toronto's Role:

- City departments are integrating the needs of immigrants and refugees in their service planning and delivery and are delivering services in different languages with culturally sensitive approaches.
- The City, in partnership with a consortium of community agencies, is providing mentoring program to internationally trained professionals by City employees volunteering as mentors.
- The City's grants programs, procurement policy and community and economic development initiatives help immigrant communities build their capacity to participate in society.
- The City's policies and programs on access, equity and diversity foster a welcoming and accepting climate to immigrants and strengthen mutual respect among residents from diverse backgrounds.
- Our immigration and settlement policy framework provides strategic directions and actions to address the settlement and integration of immigrants and refugees.

Want More Information about Toronto's Role in Immigration and Settlement?

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Community Safety

In response to growing public concern about gun-related crime in Toronto, City Council adopted a Community Safety Plan in March 2004.

The Plan calls on all orders of government, as well as the school boards, the corporate sector and community residents to play their part in ending gun violence.

The Plan identifies a series of issues that require prompt attention by Federal officials, including: improved gun control, a gun amnesty and the enactment and endorsement of legislation and sentencing provisions to deter the importation, possession and use of illegal firearms.

What the Government of Canada can do:

1. Improve the co-ordination of federal crime prevention funding. In particular, the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) should ensure that organizations serving disadvantaged neighbourhoods have access to federal funding for community safety initiatives. NCPS recently announced \$3.3 million in funding for 67 community-based crime prevention initiatives in Toronto. However, none of these projects are located in the Malvern area, the first target neighbourhood identified in the Mayor's Community Safety Plan.
2. To support administration of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, the Federal government should encourage the Province to adequately fund community-based programs that divert young people from the criminal justice system or offer alternative sanctions to those who have been convicted of offences, such as a now discontinued pilot program operated by the Toronto Police Service and Operation Springboard.

The federal government should also support the inclusion of municipal governments in decision-making processes involving the design and funding of such programs.

3. Insist that American governments (Federal and State) do more to control the sale of firearms and curtail the illegal importation of firearms into Canada from the U.S.
4. Review the minimum and maximum sentences for gun crimes specified in Part III (Firearms and Other Weapons) of the Criminal Code, especially those which relate to:
 - use of firearms in committing a crime
 - illegal possession of firearms
 - illegal sale or transfer of firearms

- illegal manufacture or modification of firearms
- illegal importation of firearms
- illegal modification or destruction of serial numbers on firearms
- unsafe storage of firearms

Key Facts:

- ◆ In January 2004, the Chief of Police reported to the Toronto Police Services Board that during 2003, compared to 2002:
 - major crime indicators decreased by 5%
 - violent crimes, especially murder and robbery, were up by 6.4%
 - the incidence of “gunplay” was up by 35%
 - calls for police assistance related to guns increased by 12.5%
- ◆ Over the past two years more than two dozen young men have been murdered on the streets of Toronto. According to the police chief, the number of deaths involving firearms has risen by 35% in two years.

Community Safety Plan:

The Plan proposes that a balanced mix of prevention and enforcement measures be taken to promote public safety. It proposes nine (9) concrete actions:

- i) Establish a Mayor’s Panel on Community Safety
- ii) Establish a Community Safety Secretariat
- iii) Develop neighbourhood action plans for key at-risk communities
- iv) Target programs and services to designated at-risk neighbourhoods
- v) Fast track the development of innovative programs to combat gun use and gang involvement
- vi) Engage the corporate sector in developing additional employment opportunities
- vii) Advocate with senior orders of government regarding required legislation
- viii) Expand the Community Crisis Response program
- ix) Engage Councillors in developing or expanding community safety initiatives in their wards

The Safety Plan will supplement a broad range of City and community-based prevention programs already in place.

Want more Information about Toronto’s Community Safety Plan?

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