

C2C CAMPAIGN SUCCESSFULLY ADVOCATES FOR INCREASE IN FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY SECTOR IN THE 2013 BUDGET



Dear C2C Supporters,

As you know from all the "Action Alerts" that you have been receiving lately, C2C has been organizing to get additional investment to community programs in the 2013 budget. The City Council met over the past day and a half to discuss this budget and make additional amendments to the budget. I am thrilled to inform you that we gained significant victories in the 2013 budget to the issues that we were advocating for. The issue areas and the motions are provided below:

1. **Greater investment in communities through the **Community Partnership Investment Program (CPIP)****

CPIP funds community groups, organizations and business associations to provide services in every corner of the city. There had been no increase to CPIP funding for the last 2 years and C2C was advocating an increase of 6% or \$2.8 million for all community grants under CPIP. The budget Committee proposed an increase of \$500,000 to CPIP before it was brought to council.

What was passed in the 2013 Budget: Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam made a motion to increase funding to community agencies receiving CPIP funding by an additional \$894,450 to make up for the lack of increase in CPIP funding for the past two years. This funding was in addition to the \$500,000 increase proposed by the budget committee. This funding was to be directed from an adjustment to the "interest in Investment Earnings". Councillor Wong-Tam's motion passed 23-22 making it the largest increase of funds to CPIP in many years. The breakdown of the votes is as follows:

YES (to increase in funding to CPIP): Ainslie, Augimeri, Carroll, Cho, Crisanti, Davis, De Baeremaker, Doucette, Filion, Fletcher, Fragedakis, Layton, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Matlow, McConnell, McMahon, Mihevc, Pasternak, Perks, Peruzza, Vaughan, Wong-Tam

NO (to not increase funding to CPIP): Bailao, Berardinetti, Colle, Crawford, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Doug Ford, Rob Ford, **Grimes**, Holyday, Kelly, Mammoliti, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Nunziata, Palacio, Parker, Robinson, Shiner, Stintz, and Thompson

2. **Student Nutrition Programs**

Prior to the council debate, the Budget proposed an increase of \$117,800 towards student nutrition programs and the Executive Committee added an additional \$200,000 to this amount. C2C was advocating for an additional \$1.25 million to expand student nutrition programs into 25 new schools, expand operating days and cover the cost the rising cost of food as recommended by the Toronto Board of Health. However Councillor Mihavc was looking at \$1.48 million to address additional needs in the program.

What was passed in the 2013 Budget: Councillor Mihevc brought forward a motion asking for \$1.163 million that would be needed to reach the \$1.48 million. This funding was to be directed from an adjustment to the "interest in Investment Earnings." Councillor Mihevc's motion passed 37-8 and the breakdown of the votes is provided below:

YES: Ainslie, Augimeri, Bailao, Berardinetti, Carroll, Cho, Crawford, Crisanti, Davis, De Baeremaeker, Doucette, Filion, Fletcher, Doug Ford, Fragedakis, **Grimes**, Layton, Lee, Mammoliti,

Matlow, McConnell, McMahon, Mihevc, Milczyn, Nunziata, Palacio, Parker, Pasternak, Perks, Peruzza, Robinson, Shiner, Stintz, Thompson, Vaughan, Wong-Tam
NO: Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Rob Ford, Holyday, Kelly, Lindsay Luby, Minnan-Wong, Moeser

3. **Prevention of Homelessness and Support to Shelter, Support and Housing**

The budget included a cut of 41,172 shelter bed nights, and related food costs in shelters, as well as cuts to affordable housing and homeless support.

The Province is providing a onetime transitional funding of \$12.3 million to maintain homeless support.

C2C was advocating for an additional \$27.7 million to maintain services at 2012 levels and to provide adequate support for affordable housing and homeless shelters.

What was passed in the 2013 Budget: Councillor Davis brought forward 2 motions on housing. One was to advocate for an additional \$3 million increase for the new housing stabilization fund, and \$40,000 for an advocacy campaign directed at the provincial and federal governments. The municipal government established this fund in response to the province's elimination of the Community Start Up & Maintenance Benefit (CSUMB). The housing stabilization fund is underfunded by \$7.8 million compared to the prior CSUMB. The \$3 million increase can be used to help bridge that gap. This motion passed by 24-21 votes. The breakdown of the votes on this motion is provided below:

YES: Ainslie, Augimeri, Bailao, Carroll, Cho, Colle, Davis, Baeremaeker, Doucette, Filion, Fletcher, Fragedakis, Layton, Lindsay Luby, Mammoliti, Matlow, McConnell, Mary-Margaret McMahon, Mihevc, Pasternak, Perks, Perruzza, Vaughan, Wong-Tam

NO: Berardinetti, Crawford, Crisanti, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Rob Ford, Doug Ford, **Grimes**, Holyday, Kelly, Lee, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Nunziata, Palacio, Parker, Robinson, Shiner, Stintz, Thompson

The second motion brought forward by Councillor Davis was to ask the City Manager and CFO to consider moving \$6.8 Million from the 2012 surplus into the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve. This fund will help to cover the costs of Toronto's existing social housing. This motion passed by 24-21 votes. The breakdown of the votes on this motion is provided below:

YES: Augimeri, Bailao, Berardinetti, Carroll, Cho, Colle, Davis, De Baeremaeker, Doucette, Filion, Fletcher, Fragedakis, Kelly, Layton, Lee, Lindsay Luby, McConnell, McMahon, Mihevc, Pasternak, Perks, Perruzza, Vaughan, Wong-Tam

NO: Ainslie, Crawford, Crisanti, Del Grande, Di Giorgio, Doug Ford, Rob Ford, Grimes, Holyday, Mammoliti, Matlow, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Nunziata, Palacio, Parker, Robinson, Shiner, Stintz, Thompson

Additionally, an important motion to move \$25 million in Capital funds to support repairs to TCHC tenant homes, as proposed by Councillor McConnell did not pass.

4. **Expand Access to Recreation**

Recently City Council passed a five year plan for our community recreation centres. The 2013 Staff Recommended Budget contained no new access dollars to implement this plan, and suggested a \$3 million programming cut.

C2C recommended that \$15.6 million be put in the budget to expand the number of priority centres, reinstate free adult programming and increase funding to the welcome policy.

What was passed in the 2013 Budget: Councillor Pasternak moved a motion to to explore the need for additional recreational youth drop in programs, with no budget impacts in 2013. This motion was passed by 40-5 votes. The breakdown of the votes on this motion is as follows:

YES: Ainslie, Augimeri, Bailao, Berardinetti, Carroll, Cho, Colle, Crawford, Crisanti, Davis, De Baeremaeker, Di Giorgio, Doucette, Filion, Fletcher, Fragedakis, Grimes, Kelly, Layton, Lee, Lindsay Luby, Matlow, McConnell, McMahon, Mihevc, Milczyn, Minnan-Wong, Moeser, Nunziata, Palacio, Parker, Pasternak, Perks, Perruzza, Robinson, Shiner, Stintz, Thompson, Vaughan, Wong-Tam

NO: Del Grande, Doug Ford, Rob Ford, Holyday, Mammoliti

Additionally, the council voted to reinstate free adult recreation in priority centres. This motion was raised by the Executive Committee and passed by Council.

Although these motions passed with support from various Councillors, we were disappointed to see that our key asks in accelerating the plan to expand priority centres (set to expand beginning of 2014) and increasing funding to the Welcome Policy were not even raised at Council. Councillor Matlow tried to move a motion to eliminate fees for children and youth at indoor pools, which also did not pass.

We would like to thank you all for your support during this budget process, and encourage you to reach out to the various Councillors who brought up the various motions mentioned above, including Councillors Wong-Tam for CPIP, Mihevc for student nutrition, Davis for shelter, supports and housing, McConnell for TCHC repairs to thank them for advocating on our behalf. I would also encourage you to look at the list of Councillors who voted on these important issues and reach out to them to thank them if they voted in favor of community funding, or email them to express your disappointment if they voted against the funding.

Every year, the city budget process becomes a fight over limited resources. However, that should not be the case. The priority of the Council should be the people of Toronto, with our diverse needs and backgrounds. This year, with your support we were able to preserve and increase funding to many of our key community programs. Hopefully, we will be able to do even more in the years ahead.

Thanks again for all your support and advocacy!

Best,

Krittika Ghosh