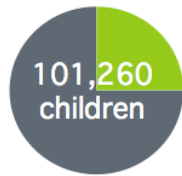


MANY TORONTONIANS LIVE IN POVERTY

25% of children (14 and under) in Toronto



374,530 Torontonians



TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

In April 2014, City Council directed City staff to develop a poverty reduction strategy for Toronto.

Between November 2014 and June 2015, City staff, community organizations, and people with lived experience of poverty co-led a broad community engagement process that shaped the actions proposed in *TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy*.

46%
OF RECENT IMMIGRANTS LIVE
IN POVERTY

37%
OF FEMALE LONE PARENTS LIVE
IN POVERTY

33%
OF PEOPLE IN RACIALIZED
GROUPS LIVE IN POVERTY

30%
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
LIVE IN POVERTY

In July 2015, City Council approved the interim strategy. This means that City Council has not yet accepted all the recommendations and actions put forward in *TO Prosperity*, but it is committed to this process and wants City staff to return in the fall with a final strategy.

If *TO Prosperity* is approved, City staff will once again reach out to residents, especially those with lived experience of poverty, about the most effective ways to implement the strategy.

Key Highlights of *TO Prosperity*:

VISION: By 2035, Toronto will have become a city where everyone has access to good jobs, adequate income, stable housing, affordable transportation, nutritious food, and supportive services.

To achieve this vision, the strategy focuses on six issue-areas:



Housing Stability: People with low income cannot afford safe, secure and adequate housing without sacrificing other basic needs. The interim strategy recommends actions such as more money for repairs to social housing, better enforcement of minimum housing standards, and provision of more housing allowances.



Access to Services: The City of Toronto provides many vital services, but not all residents find the services they need when they need them. The interim strategy recommends actions such as developing flexible child-care models and easy-to-navigate registration processes for City programs.



Transportation: Public transit connects people to jobs and services, but it is not always adapted to the needs of those who most need it. The interim strategy recommends actions such as restoring previously cut services that affected the inner suburbs, and developing fare-gear-to-income policies.



Food Access: Nutritious and culturally-appropriate food helps people to stay healthy and our communities stay vibrant. When people's lives are based on unstable work and insufficient income, nutritious food is hard to obtain. The interim strategy recommends actions such as improving food banks, removing barriers for urban agriculture, and supporting retailers who sell healthy food.



Quality Jobs & Living Wages: Over the past 20 years, job quality in Toronto has increasingly declined, with full-time, well-paid jobs replaced by jobs with lower wages and no benefits. For those unable to find work, income supports have been reduced. The interim strategy recommends actions such as adopting and championing a living wage and developing a job quality assessment tool.



Institutional Change: It takes a lot of work and commitment to build a prosperous and inclusive city. Residents, community and business partners, labour, and other orders of government will need to devote time, energy, and resources to build a prosperous and inclusive Toronto. The City of Toronto can, should, and will lead the way. The best way to lead is by example. The interim strategy recommends actions that will make poverty reduction part of the day-to-day business of the City government.

Have Your Say

Toronto's Poverty Reduction Strategy has not yet been approved. You can still have your say:



Contact your Ward Councillor and ask what he or she is doing to support the Strategy



Submit your comments and/or sign up to speak in one of the various Council committee meetings reviewing *TO Prosperity* in September and October of 2015 (more information on how to do this at: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/tmmis/have-your-say.htm>)



Contact and join the efforts of one of the many community groups supporting this process (to find one close to you, contact Israt Ahmed at iahmed@socialplanningtoronto.org)



Stay connected, visit www.toronto.ca/toprosperity and sign up to receive updates by e-mailing opendialogue@toronto.ca