





Councillor Paul Ainslie

Toronto City Council
Ward 24, Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo

Constituency Office
Scarborough Civic Centre
150 Borough Drive
Scarborough, ON M1P 4N7
Tel: 416-396-7222

TorontoCity Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite C52
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Tel: 416-392-4008
Fax: 416-392-4006

 Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood
 @Ainslie_ward24

Email: councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca
Website: www.paulainslie.com

May 16, 2019

The Honourable Lisa MacLeod, MPP
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M74 1E9

Dear Minister:

I am writing with respect to the recent announcement of the \$17 million cut in provincial funding for Violence Against Women (VAW) shelters and supports in Ontario.

Provincial funding for VAW services support the delivery of invaluable services for women and children who have experienced abuse, including:

- Emergency Shelters
- Crisis and Support Services
- Counselling Services
- Transitional and Housing Support Services
- Provincial Crisis Lines

This also comes as the City of Toronto continues to look at impacts of \$177 million in cuts to important services, including child care and public health. Further, the Ford government has, once again, chosen to quietly cut services that will deeply impact the province's most vulnerable populations. As a result, our city staff advise we can expect a service gap for women and their children who have experienced violence, are housing vulnerable and require the critical services VAW shelters provide.

The City of Toronto is deeply committed to supporting vulnerable populations so they have access to the necessary services and supports that meet their needs. However, given the ongoing shelter occupancy pressures in Toronto, cuts to provincially funded VAW shelters will result in additional pressure on a shelter system that has already reached its limit.

I urge you to reconsider the cuts to Violence Against Women shelter services. I believe this issue will continue to receive media attention and require an update to the public soon.

I also invite you to join me in my ward to visit some of our own shelters and see, first hand, the work they do and services they provide for women and children in need.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PAUL W. AINSLIE', with a horizontal line underneath.

Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto
Scarborough-Guildwood Ward 24

Cc: Mayor, John Tory