



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 2, 2019

Aris Babikian, MPP
Scarborough—Agincourt
Suite 207-4002 Sheppard Ave. E.
Scarborough, ON M1S 4R5

Dear MPP Babikian,

I would like to highlight Mayor John Tory's recent letter to you addressing the Province of Ontario's modifications to the funding formula for the budget of Toronto Public Health.

As you can understand, these changes will have a large impact on the Scarborough residents and communities we both serve. The changes to the funding formula was a surprise to all, specifically our constituents who rely on these services on a daily basis. As the service cuts were made without any consultation, and are retroactive to April 1, 2019, residents will be left to scramble as they try to learn if their program will be part of the Provincial government's service cuts.

I am confident you are aware the cuts proposed by the Province, and the City's inability to make changes this year, since we have already approved our annual Operating Budget, will effect front-line programs Toronto Public Health delivers in Scarborough— all of which are now under review and at risk of being severely curtailed or cancelled. I have attached a preliminary list which includes most of the programs Toronto Public Health delivers in Scarborough, which in summary consists of:

- 150 child care programs which are inspected to reduce the risk of infectious diseases and other health risks;
- 152 breakfast programs;
- 120 school immunization programs; and
- 20 long term care centres with food inspections and infection control.

I know the residents of Scarborough depend on these services and they keep our entire community healthy. As a result, I am asking you as a Member of Provincial Parliament, to speak to the Minister of Health to reverse this decision, and restore funding to vital, front-line public health services in Scarborough.

Based on the information our staff have received to date, the Medical Officer of Health and the City Manager have informed Toronto City Council the proposed cuts will result in a \$64 Million reduction in funding for the already approved 2019 municipal budget and nearly \$1 billion over ten years. The first written communication we have received on these changes came on Friday, April 26th and that letter does not spell out the magnitude of these proposed cuts, nor does it explain why the City's position is not accurate.

It is also worrisome our residents have been singled out to experience cuts while other residents who reside in other municipalities across Ontario will not be effected as their local public health units' budgets will continue having their cost-sharing at 60% Province/40% City or 70% Province/30% City. For Scarborough however the cost-sharing will be 50% Province/50% City. Our residents will be paying additional monies for the same services.

We all know a healthy city is a prosperous city, and the Province wants to see an end to hallway healthcare. In order to achieve this we need to invest in public health – not cut it back, to keep hardship out of our communities, placing fewer people in our overcrowded hospitals.

As you are aware Scarborough is home to many in need and we have to work hand in hand to help kids develop, become better educated, and better prepared to face the future this is accomplished through the help of the many breakfast programs. Taking this essential program out of the reach of our school children will mean that they will go hungry, they will not have the same nutritional support to help them focus and succeed as in other neighbouring municipalities who too have breakfast programs.

Please work to restore the Provincial funding formula.

Our residents in Scarborough deserve it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Ainslie', with a horizontal line underneath.

Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto
Scarborough – Guildwood Ward 24