



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

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo
Chair, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries



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March 23, 2022

Hon. Bill Blair M.P.
Scarborough-Southwest
2263 Kingston Rd
Toronto, ON M1N 1T8

Re: Intergovernmental Support for the City of Toronto 2022 Budget

Dear M.P. Blair,

As the City of Toronto continues to face the COVID-19 pandemic, it also continues to face COVID-19 impacts to its 2022 budget and is working to manage these financial impacts through almost \$500 million in cost mitigation and revenue measures for 2022.

I am writing to you today to highlight the \$1.4 billion the City requires from the Provincial and Federal governments to cover extraordinary COVID-19 expenses for 2022, including the City's biggest drivers of 2022 COVID-19 impacts such as, TTC ridership loss (\$561 million), increase shelter costs (\$288 million) and public health costs, including the City's vaccination program (\$60 million).

In addition to this, the City is requesting for \$61 million from the Federal government for refugee housing costs. The City of Toronto has a long history of welcoming newcomers to this city. In the past, the Federal government supported refugee housing costs and it is crucial that this programming continues to receive funding to ensure that support systems are ready and available for the arrival of refugees.

If the other governments do not follow through with commitments for all needed COVID-19 funding, the City will have to cut back its planned capital investments, thus jeopardizing our economic recovery and placing construction jobs at risk. These capital investments are necessary to meet Toronto's infrastructure needs as one of the fastest-growing cities in North America and maintain the City's quality of life.

In addition, if the City cuts back on its capital budget but is faced with continued financial impacts of COVID-19 in 2023, the City would have no further options but to look at a massive tax hike (up to 40% residential property tax increase) and/or service cuts.

We need the support of the other levels of government in order to continue the fight against COVID-19 and ensure that Toronto can keep investing in critical capital projects to create a greener City with more housing, better transit, and a robust quality of life.

Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto, Councillor
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