



MESSAGE FROM C2C: CONTINUE TO TELL MAYOR TORY AND CITY COUNCILLORS TO MAKE \$75 M INVESTMENT IN 2016 BUDGET AND EXPLORE NEW REVENUE TOOLS

1. **2016 BUDGET FORUMS ORGANIZED BY SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO:** Over 200 people attended SPT's 5 budget forums organized in downtown Toronto, Scarborough, Etobicoke, York and North York. In addition to concerned residents and expert panelists, Councillors Crawford, Di Ciano, Di Giorgio, Layton, and Nunziata were in attendance.
2. **BUDGET DEPUTATIONS:** Thanks to everyone for deputing at the Budget Committee hearings this week. Hundreds of people spoke out and sent letters to the budget committee urging them to invest \$75M in poverty reduction in the budget and to explore revenue tools to solve Toronto's chronic revenue challenge!
3. **THINGS YOU CAN DO NEXT FOR A STRONG TO PROSPERITY IN 2016 CITY BUDGET PROCESS:**
 - **Ask the Mayor how he will adequately fund poverty reduction:** Mayor Tory has declined to disclose what he proposes to be funded and what he wants to see cut but we want to see the proof that he is committed to fund poverty <http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/01/14/tory-plans-budget-balance-by-funding-40-per-cent.html>
 - **Ask your Councillor** to hold a budget town hall or attend [town halls](#) already planned by Councillors to better understand the budget and provide your input.
 - **Visit your Councillors** to advocate for a [\\$75 M investment](#) in TO Prosperity as called for by over 50 community leaders. Contact Israt Ahmed at iahmed@socialplanningtoronto.org to be part of the teams visiting specific Councillors
 - **Send a message to your Councillor now at togethertoronto.ca:** Sign and share this [e-petition](#) on social media using #topoli #budget2016 #payingforstuff #toprosperity
 - **Learn about the revenue tool options** that can address Toronto's budget gap without hurting the working poor. Some Councillors say the city has no money to spend on its poverty reduction strategy but these [revenue tools](#) could raise enough money to invest in the budget to help individuals and families. THERE IS NO POLITICAL GAIN IN RESISTING THESE NEW REVENUE TOOLS THAT WILL BUILD TORONTO!
4. **MEDIA COVERAGE:**
 - **SPT in the news!** Scarborough Mirror, Mike Adler, "[Scarborough's social advocates feel money for improvements slipping away from Toronto's 2016 budget](#)". January 8, 2016.
 - Toronto Star, Myer Siemiatycki opinion piece, "[Fairer property taxes would help address Toronto's revenue problem](#)". January 12, 2016.
 - Toronto Star, Jennifer Pagliaro, "[Toronto Councillor blast police board over 'status quo' promotions for senior officers](#)". January 12, 2016.
 - CBC Metro Morning, [Budget Debate](#), Matt Galloway speaks with Councillors Crawford & Perks about the sell off of Toronto Hydro and Green P Parking, revenue tools, taxes and more. January 11, 2016.
 - Toronto Star editorial, "[Toronto should bring back vehicle registration tax](#)". January 11, 2016.
 - Metro, Matt Elliott, "[City's laser sharp focus on small items not good for budget](#)". January 10, 2016.

- Toronto Star, Edward Keenan, "Toronto trudging again through season of denial". January 10, 2016.
- Toronto Star, David Rider, "Mayor, staff were told of extra cash from potential Toronto Hydro sell-off". January 9, 2016

5. Get updates about future actions

- For updates on budget-related activities please visit www.socialplanningtoronto.org or www.povertyreductionto.ca , or email iahmed@socialplanningtoronto.org.