



URGENT ACTION: Tell Mayor Tory and City Council to keep their promise to invest in transit, affordable housing & poverty reduction!

1. [Sign up](#) now to speak at Toronto's Budget Hearings on January 12, 13 or 14, 2016 - or email your written comments to buc@toronto.ca. Tell Council why your community needs better access to jobs, adequate incomes, good transit, affordable housing, food, child care and other services!
2. You can draw from some of these key facts:
 - Toronto has [the highest level of child and adult poverty among large cities in Canada](#).
 - On November 4, Council unanimously approved [TO Prosperity](#), the city's first poverty reduction strategy, which includes 71 actions to create good jobs and improve access to transit, housing, child care and other services.
 - In 2015, the City invested \$25M in **new** anti-poverty actions (including free TTC for children, student nutrition programs, and new emergency shelters).
 - **But the proposed 2016 budget takes a step back: it does not include ANY funding for new or enhanced anti-poverty actions.**
 - [50 Civic leaders](#) have said that a \$75M investment – less than 1% of the city's 2016 budget – is needed to start implementing Council's TO Prosperity Plan.
 - Some Councillors say the city has no money to spend on its poverty reduction strategy. In fact, [revenue tools](#) – like a vehicle registration tax or a levy on commercial parking spaces – could raise more than enough money to support this cost-saving investment in Toronto's children and families. The city can also review some of its existing budget areas such as police and technology for funds.
3. Reference these quotes from Mayor Tory:
 - *"[Tackling poverty is] one of the fundamental litmus tests of whether this city wants to be great...It will be, I think, quite determinative in deciding whether we can stay on the top . . . and say we're the best place in the world in which to live."* - June 23, 2015
 - *"We have the choice of investing now... (or) we can pay later in a way that is trying to remedy and put Band-Aids on things that are wounds that really gnaw at the social fabric of our city and really take away and sap our strength and sap what we're very proud of... I accept the plan with its aspirations, I support it, I buy into it, I commit myself to it and I think we should commit ourselves to it."* - November 4, 2015
4. Send a message to your Councillor now at togethertoronto.ca
 - Sign and share this [e-petition](#) on social media using #topoli #budget2016 #payingforstuff #toprosperity
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.