

1. Do you have a Métis or an Aboriginal platform or positions as part of your campaign? What are they?

We know that the aboriginal community makes up a disproportionate percentage of Toronto's homeless and approximately 15 per cent of indigenous residents are homeless. Along with newcomers, visible minorities, and disabled people, aboriginals are also overrepresented in our priority neighbourhoods. If we allow this many of our aboriginal citizens will lose hope that they can take full advantage of all our city has to offer. There is no reason that in a city as prosperous as ours we can allow this to continue. Addressing this, I believe, is a big challenge that Toronto must address.

To that end, as Mayor I will work to make affordable housing more accessible and of better quality. There are a number of ways that I will do this:

- Address the Toronto Community Housing repair backlog immediately. I will move right away to invest \$864 million, the City's funded one third share, in overdue repairs at TCH, and will also press the federal and provincial governments to step up and invest now.
- Support a National Housing Strategy. I will work with the federal and provincial government, as well as other Mayors and municipal associations, such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, to advance a National Housing Strategy.
- Review and re-invigorate Toronto's Tower Renewal program and promote affordable infill housing. I will explore incentives, such as reduced development charges, so that more affordable housing can be created in apartment complexes, particularly as a contribution to the Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy.
- Explore innovative financing arrangements for affordable housing, both ownership and rental. I will work with the not-for-profit and co-op housing sectors, as well as private sector developers, to develop long-term solutions to both the retention and provision of affordable housing for Toronto. I will also promote the consideration of social impact bonds.
- Enhance the Rent Bank program. I will enhance the Rent Bank Program, which helps low income tenants facing eviction with no-interest loans. It is a program that needs more resources and greater awareness by tenants in difficulty.
- Provide more Section 37 funds for affordable housing. I will work with City Council and the provincial government (legislation may be necessary) to ensure that a significant amount of Section 37 funds are used for retention or new construction of affordable housing. Section 37 funds result from increased heights or densities on re-zoning applications – largely from condo development in the downtown area. Funds are used for local amenities on or near the site of the re-zoning.

- Ensure more city owned land (including TPA and TCH land) is used for affordable housing. BUILD TORONTO is the agency for the development of surplus and underused city owned lands. More of these lands need to either be dedicated to affordable housing or sold and proceeds used to build other properties suitable for residential purposes. I will press the federal and provincial governments to have similar policies for their Toronto-owned (including TPA and TCH) lands.
- Greater focus on transit access for lower and middle-income neighbourhoods. Many of the SmartTrack stations are planned to be near, or in, lower and middle-income neighbourhoods. Its routes will also offer lower and middle-income neighbourhoods much more convenient access to higher-order transit than is currently the case.
- Explore tax incentives for affordable private sector housing. Directly with the federal and provincial governments, and through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, I will explore tax incentives for affordable private sector housing. Capital cost allowance provisions have in past helped to produce much of the rental housing stock in Toronto.
- Establishment of a Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness at City Council. The establishment of this Standing Committee recognizes the importance of housing issues and homelessness for Toronto. Currently there have been only ad-hoc committees on these issues.

Further, we need to expand employment opportunities across the city. To do so, my plan calls for One Toronto: a Toronto where every corner of the city has access to opportunity. To achieve this there are several fundamentals required:

- Top-drawer education that produces an excellent workforce. We have that, and need more. I will work with the province no matter who wins the election to increase educational opportunities in Toronto.
- A competitive tax regime. Federal and provincial policies have produced a very strong corporate tax regime for our corner of the globe. I will make sure that City taxation builds on that advantage and grows more competitive.
- First-class transportation. Attracting and retaining high value-added businesses requires attracting super-skilled workers. These people, and their employers, demand excellent cities with great public amenities, and the ability to move from home to work to play with ease. Toronto's struggling transportation system has to be upgraded to make the City's competitive equation work. As Mayor, I will make this my top priority by investing in SmartTrack which will expand transit in this city by 53km and 22 stations.

- Leadership. No city can compete in the dynamic twenty-first economy without strong leadership that is focused on the City's real challenges. We've been missing that leadership for a long time. I will bring it back.

2. What do you see as the City of Toronto priorities for the Métis and the Aboriginal communities in Toronto?

If elected mayor, I will work with the City's Aboriginal Affairs Committee and Toronto's Métis and Aboriginal communities, in order to advance the goal of achieving equitable outcomes in those communities.

I look forward to receiving updates on initiatives such as the Urban Aboriginal Framework, as well as the Aboriginal Employment Strategy, which supports the City of Toronto's commitment to implementing employment practices that increase the number of Aboriginal employees at all occupational levels. I want to make sure that our social programs are effective and accessible.

Throughout the campaign I have voiced my commitment to social inclusion with the goal of having One Toronto; a city that doesn't leave behind any communities or neighbourhoods in need.

The platforms I have announced on jobs, housing and transit for One Toronto all support this commitment, along with my plans to:

- Provide leadership for the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy; working towards the detailed provisions of the strategy, including developing goals and timetables.
- Give continued priority to neighbourhood improvement programs within the Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy. Toronto has 31 neighbourhoods that fall below the equity scores under the Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy. I will work with community groups, government officials at all levels, the private sector, and particularly the residents of these neighbourhoods to develop new and innovative ways of accomplishing equity as quickly as possible.
- Improve food security. Food Bank usage is on the rise. Part of the answer is more affordable housing so individuals and families have enough income left for affordable nutritious food. Toronto also needs more nutrition/ breakfast programs in schools. No child should go to school hungry. I will work with community based organizations to develop plans to improve food security for the people of Toronto.

- Join in the movement for a 10-year plan to end homelessness. I will join in the continent-wide movement for a 10-year plan to address homelessness. I will continue with the City's Housing First and Streets to Homes policies, and consider adding Shelters to Homes and prevention programs for the near homeless. The critical challenge is to include getting people out of shelters and into real housing solutions. I will work with all levels of government and social groups to develop and execute a real strategy in this area.
- Advocate for more child care spaces. Early learning and child care is vital to the development of our children. While Toronto Child Services is a good operation, Toronto needs more spaces. I will advocate for increased child care funding from the federal and provincial governments.

3. How do you envision building a closer relationship between the City of Toronto and the Toronto and York Region Métis Council

I will designate a member of my staff in the mayor's office to be the lead liaison with the aboriginal and metis communities, and to interface with the Aboriginal Affairs Committee. This staffer would meet with community leaders on an agreed-upon schedule, and would arrange meetings with me as required.