

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2010



GET OUT THE VOTE!

THE 2010 MUNICIPAL ELECTION will be a wild race right until polls close on October 25th. There is a lot at stake. Does Toronto continue building on its strengths and investing in its public services? Or are we at risk of repeating the Mike Harris “Common Sense Revolution” with all the turmoil and disruption that caused? The Mayor’s race is just one part of that equation – there are nine open city council seats which will decide the balance of power in Toronto for the next four years.

In our school boards as well, there are clear choices to make about the kind of leadership we need for an education system that gives every student what they need to succeed. And in York Region, the ongoing issues of growth, services and accountability are being fought out in every municipality. All good reasons to make sure that everyone gets out and votes!

The labour movement is engaged in a number of ways in this 2010 election:

- Labour Council has endorsed a wide variety of candidates for city councils and school boards. The list, contact numbers and map are on our website at labourcouncil.ca. As well, the lists from the Durham Region and Brampton/Mississauga Labour Councils are also provided.
- The Good Jobs for All coalition has been leading a campaign called Public Services for All, which links the role of public services and the quality of life in our communities. It focuses on four key areas – transit, good jobs, protecting public assets, and services for families and children.
- The OneToronto campaign aims to engage and motivate voters to demand that candidates : focus on facts not fury, protect what is great about this city, and work for a Toronto that includes everyone. OneToronto is a network of environmental, arts, student, labour and social justice groups representing hundreds of thousands of Torontonians.

Together, these efforts will make a difference to the outcome. A lot of very powerful and wealthy people want Canada’s largest city to start wholesale privatization, outsourcing, and abolish its Canadian procurement or fair wage policies. All but one of the candidates for mayor promise massive cuts to city jobs. The only mayoralty candidate who is committed to a platform of economic justice and respecting front line workers is Joe Pantalone – and that is why he is labour’s choice for Mayor.

Voting day is Monday October 25th. Make sure you take family, friends, and neighbours to the polls. Last election we lost one seat by just 20 votes. We can’t afford for that to happen again – this time every single vote counts as never before.



OneToronto *A Call to Action*



THIS UPCOMING ELECTION is about the future of Canada's largest urban centre. OneToronto is a vision for the City, a city that builds on its successes, cares for its neighbours, does its part to protect the environment and values community. The One-

Toronto campaign aims to change the nature of the public debate around the 2010 election

Many of us have spent years working to build the kind of city we can be proud of – one that serves all its residents regardless of income, which celebrates its diversity and plays a leadership role in crucial areas like climate change and social equality. We have rejected the politics of division and crafted a common vision of a city that is built on a foundation of strong public services and equity for all.

Torontonians from all walks of life need to rally around these values, and bring forth the urgency of acting in their defence. In the face of the prevailing negativity, OneToronto is a powerful message that talks about the city we want. Our Toronto:

- confronts the challenges of this century: climate change, pollution, urban growth and aging infrastructure,
- welcomes newcomers into an excitingly diverse and cosmopolitan city,
- enhances services designed to improve the quality of life for all and address economic, social and racial inequality,
- invests in education, quality housing, and social infrastructure,
- invests in accessible public transit and pushes it into more neighbourhoods across the city,
- values and nurtures a vibrant cultural and arts community;
- will create a greener economy with good jobs for all.

Our goal has always been one Toronto that offers everyone both respect and a decent quality of life. The campaign endeavours to create a groundswell of public opinion that re-asserts the progressive values that most Torontonians share. It can motivate those who currently feel disengaged and inspire people from every community to get involved. We have a lot to lose in this election, and it's up to all of us to make sure that doesn't happen.

What am I doing for elections...

Jenny Ahn – Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Director, Member Mobilization & Political Action



"I'm bringing candidates that we've endorsed to talk to local union leaders. I think these meetings help build connections and inspire union members to take action.

"Local unions are taking it upon themselves to talk to their members and get them canvassing, doing leaflet drops, and volunteering for key campaigns.

"We like Pantalone's policy on seniors. Every CAW local has a retired workers chapter and we are doing outreach to them to encourage them to get active.

"The municipal government can set precedent and stimulate the local economy. In 2009, the Toronto Transit Commission passed a policy requiring a minimum 25% Canadian content policy for the purchases of light rail vehicles, which maintained and created hundreds of Canadian jobs. We then used that policy to get the province to agree to a 25% Canadian content policy for transit vehicle purchases by municipalities. In addition to this policy, the City of Toronto also agreed to a minimum 50% Canadian assembly labour for purchases of new buses. Policies like these remind us this election really matters to union members."

Carolyn Egan – President, Steelworkers Toronto Area Council; member, Good Jobs for All Coalition



"USW is sending a letter to our members talking about the elections and our vision for the city, which includes green jobs, equity and public services for all.

"We are supporting the OneToronto campaign because we believe in its progressive platform.

"Our members are working on specific candidate campaigns, and doing outreach blitzes like flyering.

"This election could be a turning point in the history of this city. Rob Ford is capitalizing on the anger created by the economic recession. But he has simplistic answers that will not solve the challenges we face."

VILMA FILICI vilmafilici.ca

FIRST-TIME CANDIDATE, VILMA FILICI, is running for the ward 12 (York South-Weston) City Council seat.

Vilma has been a community activist in Canada since she emigrated from Argentina in 1973. She has been a great ally in the struggle for worker and immigrant rights. As president of the Canadian Hispanic Congress, Vilma was active on the successful \$10 minimum wage campaign and is currently a member of the Good Jobs for All Coalition.

Vilma's election platform includes improving the conditions of working class and immigrant communities in her ward, with a focus on youth and seniors.

Vilma believes councillors and school trustees need to work together to motivate children to stay in school. "In our ward the school dropout rate among visible minorities

is nearly double the provincial average," she says. "Kids are roaming the streets and getting into trouble. We need tutoring, good jobs, and recreation facilities so kids have something to do."

Weston has seen many industry jobs disappear in recent years. The most hard-hitting closure was the Kodak plant: the company laid off its last 800 workers in 2005.

Vilma believes solutions to the jobs problem should be generated by the community. She is championing the popular community-initiated idea of encouraging people to frequent the small shops in ward 12 to get the economy going.

Vilma's election platform also includes a commitment to appoint one person in her constituency office to address seniors' issues. Approximately 25% of the wards residents are classified as seniors, and "many of



them live on their own, don't speak English, and aren't aware of the services available to them. That must be fixed," she says.

Given her commitment to supporting society's most vulnerable, Vilma does not believe austerity measures will "fix" city hall. "I think good public services assist people in getting the help they need," she says. "When I hear Rob Ford talk about reducing taxes I immediately think what services is he going to cut. But he doesn't answer that question."

5 reasons why **ROB FORD** is **WRONG** for working families.

1

Millionaire Councillor Rob Ford would turn his back on Canadian jobs and send over half a billion tax dollars overseas, by having TTC subway cars built in China instead of here in Ontario. And he says he would do it every time the price is cheaper.

2

Ford would abolish the Fair Wage policy that protects workers from being exploited by contractors paying substandard wages and cutting corners on workplace safety.

3

Ford would cut thousands of city jobs at a time when there are already too many people out of work. And he would replace some of them with contractors that pay poverty wages.

4

Ford's numbers don't add up. He is making lots of promises that can't be paid for, and announcing figures that are simply untrue.

5

Rob Ford would be a constant embarrassment for the people of Toronto – just listen to his "maturity" rant on YouTube.

SHAPE THE OUTCOME ON OCT.25

Municipal decisions shape our everyday lives, from the quality of our public services to the health of our environment. It's important we get involved. Here are five ways you can take action:

1) Make up Your Mind

You get to vote for three positions: mayor, city councillor and school board trustee.

The Labour Council has a list of endorsed candidates that is the result of an in-depth interview process. Other third-party candidate rankings are also a reliable way to assess candidates. The Campaign for Public Education, the Toronto Environmental Alliance, and the Public Transit Coalition have all issued report cards on the candidates.

2) Educate and Activate Your Network (It's bigger than you think)

It's time to reach out to your contact list and ask them to vote, volunteer, educate others, and donate. Mass emails and social media tools are the quickest way to communicate to many, but personal phone calls and face-to-face discussions yield far more "yeses", and far bigger commitments. Instead of getting a "yes, I'll forward this email", you might get a "yes I'll join you and volunteer on a political campaign." Talk it up everywhere, from the doorstep, to the bus stop to the dinner table.

3) Volunteer

The most effective volunteer-activity you can do from now until the election is volunteer for a candidate. Call up the candidate's office or just walk in off the street. The campaign should have someone available to greet, orientate and support volunteers, like you.

Chances are you'll be assigned one of four activities: phoning residents, going door-to-door asking residents to vote and support your candidate; dropping off literature at houses, or installing signs on lawns. Campaigns are generally very exciting, busy places full of committed, interesting people.

4) Donate

Candidates need money to run a winning campaign. Individual donations have never been more valuable, as corporate and union donations are no longer allowed for Toronto city council. The city has set up a rebate program that returns up to 75% of your donation. Donation rules are different for school trustee candidates.

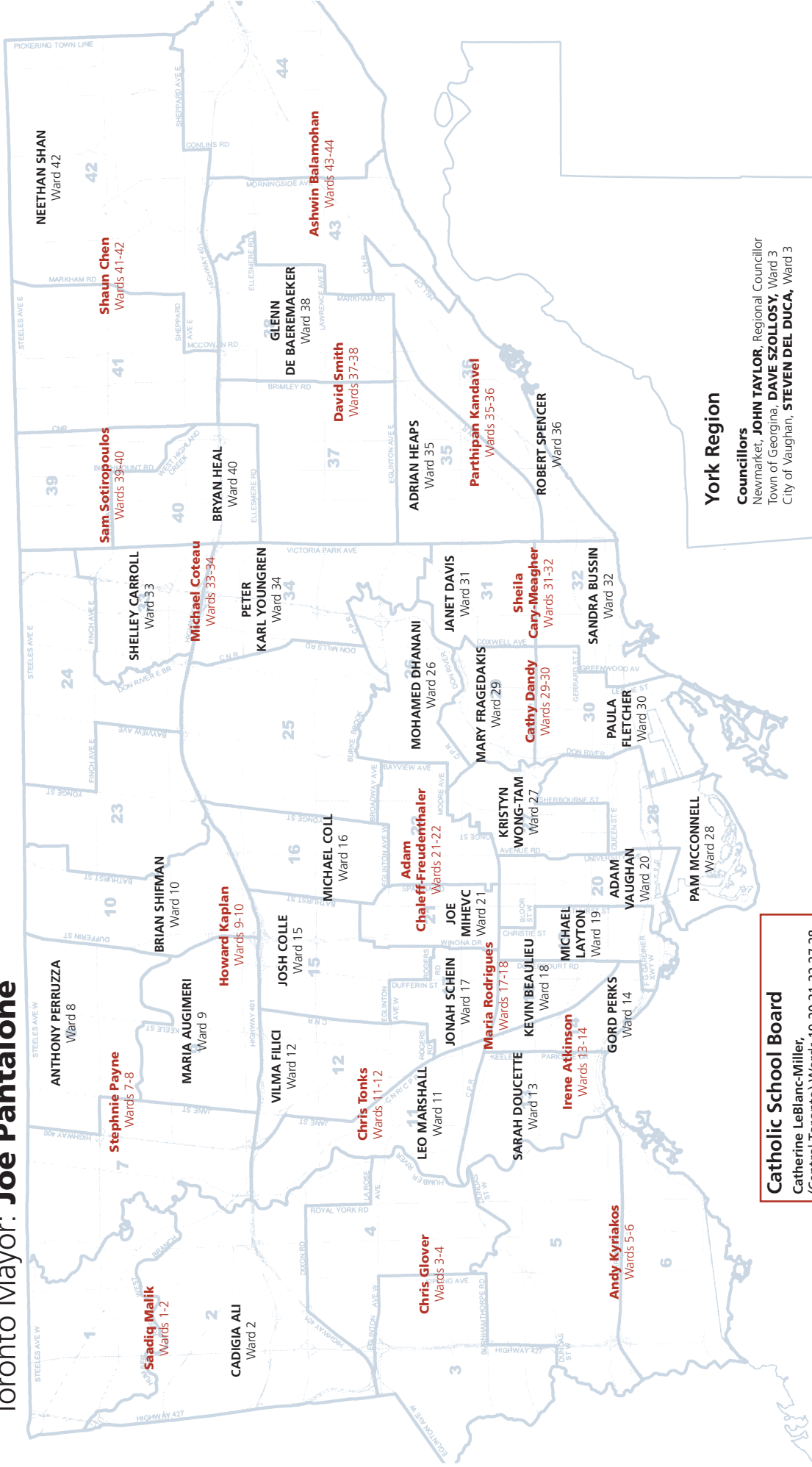
5) Vote

Only about 38% of Torontonians vote, which is far too low. Low turnout rates, however, mean that our efforts to vote and increase voter turnout can have a significant influence on election outcomes.

Election day is Monday October 25, but its easy to vote on one of the advance voting days in October. Polls on election day are open 10am to 8pm. Details are online: <http://www.toronto.ca/elections/voters/voting-days.htm>. Don't get turned away at the polls - bring ID with your name, signature, and address. And most importantly, bring a friend to vote too!

Candidates Endorsed by the Toronto & York Region Labour Council

Toronto Mayor: **Joe Pantalone**



York Region

Councillors
 Newmarket, **JOHN TAYLOR**, Regional Councillor
 Town of Georgina, **DAVE SZOLLOSY**, Ward 3
 City of Vaughan, **STEVEN DEL DUCA**, Ward 3

Catholic School Board
 Catherine LeBlanc-Miller,
 (Central Toronto) Wards 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28
 Kevin Morrison,
 (East Toronto) Wards 26, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34
 Tom Rakocevic,
 (North York) Wards 8, 9, 10
 Maria Rizzo,
 (North York) Wards 15, 16, 23, 25

Legend:
COUNCILLORS
Public Trustees

Josh Colle joshcolle.com

A LATE-STARTER in the race for the ward 15 (Eglinton-Lawrence) city council seat, Josh Colle was endorsed after progressive incumbent, Howard Moscoe, withdrew in August after 32 years in office.

Josh says he is running because he believes Toronto is a great city worth fighting for – “although in this election you’re not allowed to call Toronto great,” he quips. Josh also draws inspiration from his family. “I want my three boys to have the same opportunities I had when growing up in Toronto. In fact, everyone - whether you’re from Ontario or any other part of the world, should be given a good chance,” he says.

Josh knows ward 15 well. He served as Catholic school board trustee from 2000 to 2003, and is currently a director of the 5 Points Residents Association which works to revitalize the Vaughan/Oakwood Area. A series of neighbourhood meetings prompted the association to take action and capitalize on the growing artist com-

munity living in the area and promote itself as an arts district and small business hub. Josh has incorporated this strategy into his election platform.

Josh is keen on encouraging local community solutions and accountability. If elected, he plans to set up a councillor advisory committee that will work constructively with him to pass beneficial policies. “I’d like to have people really feel ownership over city hall,” he says.

Another important local issue for Josh is making sure the neighbourhood has a greater say in the management of parks. “If someone wants to use the park for a kids-music day or a farmers market then the city should facilitate that. It doesn’t have a big price tag but it makes the city much more liveable.”

On city-wide matters, Josh is pushing for improvements to mass transit. “I used to be responsible for improving transit to Pearson Airport,” he



says. “The airport employs thousands of people, and is located near some of our poorest neighbourhoods. But many nearby residents have to catch multiple buses to reach the airport for work.”

Josh is advocating for the construction of the Eglinton-West subway line. He is also pushing for new transit pricing so the TTC is more accessible to families and seniors. Colle wants a new \$10 weekday TTC Family Pass, and a cheaper “\$65 at 65” seniors Metropass.

Josh is by far the most progressive candidate running in the ward. It’s time for new leadership to continue the solid work that Moscoe has done for many years.

What am I doing for elections...

Nigel Barriffe – Member of Community Organizing for Responsible Development (CORD) and the Good Jobs for All Coalition.

“I am supporting the OneToronto campaign. It’s wonderful to bring together students, teachers, and community groups.

“I’m supporting the Pantalone campaign, dropping off leaflets, and having conversations with people.

“We are organizing an all-candidates debate in Ward 2 on October 14 because we want more people in Jane-Finch to make an informed vote.

“I’m getting involved because I have a deep love for Toronto and I believe we should vote out of love, not anger.”

Ibrahim Bozai – Client services representative, OPSEU Local 526

“I’m talking to as many people as I can.

“I volunteer for Pantalone. I wear a Joe Pantalone t-shirt and have conversations with people about the election.

“I’m volunteering to do phone banking to our union members as many nights as I can stand. It’s pretty easy phone banking because they’re OPSEU members, like me. It’s a great opportunity to inject some light and hope into the general feeling of anxiety and confusion that many of our members feel about the election. They get excited when I tell them there is a good candidate running. And I am motivated when I hear they’re interested in getting more politically involved.”

DID YOU KNOW five of the eight schools scheduled to be closed by the Toronto District School Board are in Scarborough? School Trustee candidate, Ashwin Balamohan does; three of those schools are in his district of ward 22 Scarborough East.

“The demographics don’t justify school closures as young families are moving into the area,” Ashwin says. He thinks the “school board is looking to close schools and cut costs in areas where people don’t push back.”

Ashwin thinks there are more positive ways to address the funding crisis than closing schools. Ashwin points to the strategy of reimagining schools as community hubs as an innovative way to secure more stable school-funding.

The Campaign for Public Education also believes schools should return to their historical role as a civic space

belonging to the whole community where schools provide space for important services, like kindergarten, child care, ESL classes, and sports. “The provincial and federal governments could even rent school space to provide services to residents instead of using private shopping malls,” suggests Balamohan.

Ashwin is also pushing for curriculum reform. He wants schools to decrease their emphasis on standardized testing because he believes it reduces the quality of education. The Ontario government spends over \$100 million on standardized testing for elementary students. “I stand for a more well-round curriculum that includes athletics and music,” he said.

Ashwin also wants schools to do a better job at including the stories of people often excluded from the class-



room, such as aboriginal, working class and immigrant authors. He references the City of Markham’s experience in using those texts as a case study other school boards should learn from.

Ashwin doesn’t see his youth as a barrier, but rather an asset because he understands the challenges students face now. The Labour Council also believes it’s time Ashwin’s voice and ideas are heard at the school board.

EDUCATION VOTES MATTER

- **WORKING WITH THE CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION**, CUPE 4400, Elementary Teachers of Toronto (ETT) and Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) District 12 have come up with a list of 17 public school trustee candidates that we believe will fight for proper funding for good quality education for our children, youth, adults, seniors and pre-schoolers. Those individuals have also been endorsed by the Labour Council, as have four candidates for the Toronto Catholic School Board.

- **FACING A STILL UNDER-FUNDED EDUCATION SYSTEM**, challenged by growing community needs and pressure to sell off as much property as possible, the upcoming Board will need to have a majority of Trustees elected who will pledge to organize their communities in order to protect programs, services and schools.

- **TEACHERS AND EDUCATION WORKERS ULTIMATELY RELY ON THE DECISIONS OF THE TDSB TRUSTEES** when it comes down to our success in bargaining. For the next round of bargaining, there is a possibility that we could face a Hudak-lead Tory regime. Having good, progressive Trustees in place to resist school closings, ensure students have what they need to succeed and refuse cuts in the next round of bargaining becomes more important than ever.

- **IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A SYSTEM THAT SPENDS OVER \$2 BILLION A YEAR, THAT CONTROLS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF LAND, EQUIPMENT AND BUILDINGS**, and that your community will continue to have a neighbourhood school, pools, adult education and retraining, then you need to make sure you support the local trustees endorsed by CPE and Labour Council.

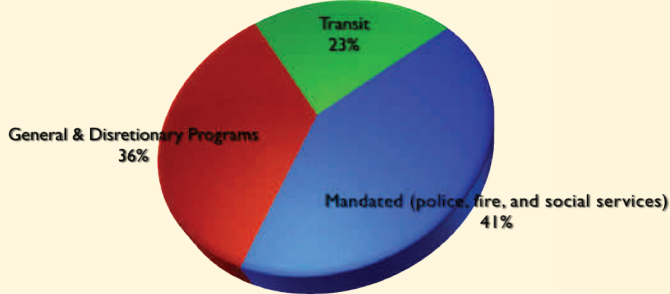
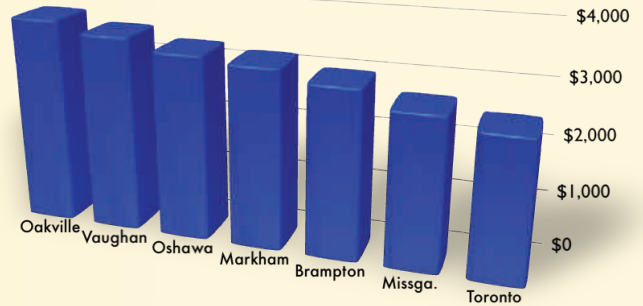
Toronto is our home...



**Are city taxes out of control?
NO. They are the lowest in the GTA.**

Average Residential Property Taxes

Source: City of Toronto 2010 Operating Budget



Is city spending out of control?

Hardly. Two thirds of city spending goes to transit and mandated services.

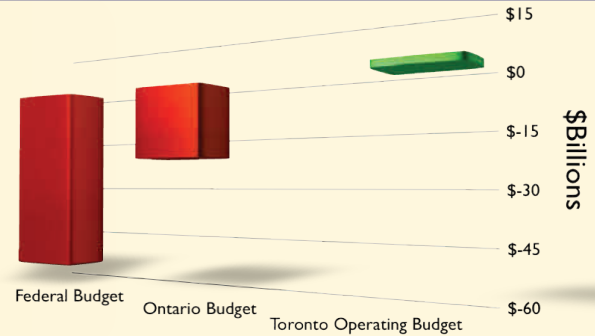
City Spending by Program Type

Source: Toronto Board of Trade, 2008 data

**Are city finances out of control?
Not at all. Toronto is running a
\$355 million operating surplus.**

Budget Deficits, 2009-2010

Source: Dept. of Finance, Ministry of Finance, City Budget



Accolades for the City of Toronto

- ✓ Best global city for employers
- ✓ 10th most economically powerful city in the world
- ✓ One of the safest cities in North America
- ✓ 4th best city in the world to experience culture

...don't trash talk it!

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