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THE RETURN OF SLASH AND BURN

Conservative Mayor Rob Ford is driving full speed ahead with his agenda of cutting services and jobs in the City of Toronto. In the classic strategy of creating a financial crisis, Ford has drained all the city reserves, used up a surplus worth \$275 million, and slashed city revenues. Now his team is proposing a slew of outrageous options – wipe out thousands of childcare spaces, sell off senior’s homes, cut back on snow removal, take fluoride out of the water... the list is so outrageous that it overwhelms.

That is exactly the point. To get away with unpopular cuts, Ford has to contrast them to even more devastating options. People will breathe a sigh of relief, and feel that they have escaped the worse. As the infamous Conservative Minister of Education John Snobelen said “we need to invent a crisis, then we get to fix it”. And the fix is definitely in. Ford and hardcore deputies like Mammoliti and Holyday can’t wait to downgrade public services and sell off public assets. Millions of tax dollars will be diverted to private contractors, global corporations and wealthy landlords.

As the City Committees start meeting to revue the KPMG lists, Labour Council is calling on Toronto Councillors to reject this entire slash and burn agenda, and return to their real mandate of building a city that respects both its residents and workers while serving all Torontonians.

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