



TORONTO 2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTION PROGRAM

Labour Council's election program for Toronto 2018 combines the key issues that matter to working people for their city government and school boards. Canada's largest city can only prosper if there is a strong foundation of public services and a recognition of the growing economic disparities that need to be tackled, and a strong commitment to equity. Elected representatives at City Council or School Boards should be willing to champion:

SERVICES TO EVERY COMMUNITY

- Provide quality, accessible services available to residents of all ages in every community. There is no shortcut to quality – it takes investment in people and public space. That takes money and intention to build a strong city that serves every neighbourhood.

TAX FAIRNESS

- Toronto has a revenue problem. City Council should bring balance to city taxes, where the wealthiest landowners shoulder their fair share. Instead of homeowners and tenants paying more, stop the giveback of tens of millions of dollars through the distorted TIEGs system of grants for office towers. Review development charges to ensure they cover the full cost of services, and allow the school boards access to a share of these charges.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

- Nobody can tell the next generation how they will be able to put a roof over their heads. All levels of government must deliver the money needed to keep TCHC units in good repair. Spearhead a new building program for co-op and non-profit housing to reduce the impact of speculative pressures on housing stock. Require inclusionary zoning for developers to provide affordable units.

TRANSIT FOR ALL

- Affordable, accessible transit is crucial for the health of this city. Freeze transit fares and demand the provincial government restore the traditional support level for TTC operating expenses. Put more buses on the road until rapid transit arrives in suburban neighbourhoods. Say no to privatization of transit.

JOB AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Toronto generates great wealth at the same time that income inequality is growing dramatically. The city has an important role in promoting an economy with good jobs for all – defending employment lands; supporting green economic development; requiring suppliers to pay fair wages; encouraging high road labour strategies in a variety of sectors; actively challenging business models of precarity.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Major infrastructure projects should provide good jobs for local residents, access to careers in the trades and professions for diverse communities, and high environmental standards. The City should play a leadership role in embedding community benefits in new developments.

INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION

- An education system that leads students to succeed is the foundation of a healthy society. The province needs to fix the funding formula. School boards need to embrace programs and policies that serve students of all backgrounds, and provide respectful working conditions for education workers. Local schools should be true community hubs, offering programs and welcoming spaces for local residents. A major retrofit program of schools is long overdue, and will save money, lower carbon emissions and create good jobs.

DEFENDING THE PUBLIC GOOD

- Our elected representatives must defend public assets and services, and oppose privatization. They should work to expand accessibility of childcare, rec services and care for the elderly. Employment land needs to be protected from encroachment by developers who would drive up land prices and drive jobs out of the city.

A SUSTAINABLE CITY

- Toronto was once Canada's greenest city, but lost ground in recent years. There is a huge opportunity to lower the city's carbon footprint while creating good jobs – in everything from transit to building retrofits, eco-schools to electric vehicles. Labour's *Greenprint for a Greater Toronto* points the way to transforming every workplace. The TransformTO process must be given priority in budgets and staff resources.

A CITY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Public services are crucial for social justice. Ensuring that a gender and equity lens are applied to budgets and programs will make this a better city, while a commitment to challenge systemic racism is vital for a healthy society. A model of community policing where every resident feels respected is vital for dignity and social cohesion. The economic factors that have made Toronto the child poverty capital of Canada must be balanced by strong comprehensive strategies that favour the public interest over market greed. In one of the most multicultural cities in the world, our work for justice is a journey that is constantly evolving.