

# The **TORONTO PARTY**

## LEADING THE WAY

TTP Update  
SEPTEMBER 2007

This newsletter is the publication of  
The Toronto Party – Toronto's first  
non-partisan civic action party.

Party Website  
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### **PARTY INTRODUCES 10- POINT PLAN**

A lot of people have complained about the Mayor's desire to introduce a hefty new land transfer tax and new vehicle registration fee in order to raise \$350 million to solve Toronto's budget shortfall. We strongly oppose these new tax measures. But complaining about the Mayor's plan is not enough. That is why we were the first group to introduce a 10-point plan to reduce our city's spending. We have also proposed new ways to generate revenue in order to continue to deliver core city services.

You can download our plan at:

[www.thetorontoparty.com](http://www.thetorontoparty.com)

### **MILLER'S CUTS HURT CHILDREN**

Mayor Miller's reaction to the vote which deferred a decision on introducing new taxes has been shameful. Notwithstanding that many commentators, including the Toronto Star's Royson James, have suggested that the first cutback that should be made to resolve Toronto's fiscal crisis should come in the area of councillor salaries and office budgets, the City has decided to make cutbacks in services, some of which will impact on the quality of life of our children and grandchildren.

A reduction in council salaries, annual office budgets and staffing in councillor offices could save more than \$4 million annually. Yet under Mayor Miller's direction, the City has decided to end library services on Sundays and delay the opening of outdoor ice rinks by a month. These two measures will only save \$2 million a year. In our view, fostering the literacy of our kids and ensuring that they have winter recreational activities trump the need to retain a \$53,000 annual office budget, a 9% wage increase for politicians, and a nearly \$300,000 staffing budget per councillor. Whereas some councillors feel the need to hire four people to help run their offices, we have been advised that two people are sufficient to run a councillor's office.

The City has also decided to close recreation centres on Mondays. This will further impact our children – and our seniors too.

The shocking decisions that are being made at City Hall are, however, not confined to the choices described above. Although city politicians complain that more revenue is needed to deliver core services, they turn around and spend more money on themselves by introducing new photocopiers in their offices. The spending was justified in a "briefing note" distributed by city staff which said that the new contract will save money. We remain skeptical of these unnecessary expenditures, and have one clear message for our Mayor: **"Stop hurting our children and the most innocent and vulnerable people in our city. Lead by example and get your own house in order first."**

### **The Toronto Party plans to hold half-day symposium**

During the provincial election, a lot of politicians will be focusing their energy on extracting promises from the provincial leaders to help solve Toronto's fiscal crisis. However regardless of which party wins the provincial election, we cannot expect a bail out.

It is up to Toronto to solve its own problems, and therefore in order to "lead the way", we will be trying to organize a symposium to discuss ideas on how to solve the crisis. Please visit our website for updates on this symposium.