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Fwd: January 2025 Newsletter: Budget Town Hall, 2024 Recap, Encampment Update and more!

To wle4@unbeldi.com

From: Councillor Chris Moise <councillor_moise@council.toronto.ca>

Subject: January 2025 Newsletter: Budget Town Hall, 2024 Recap, Encampment Update and more!

Date: January 7, 2025 at 9:57:23 AM EST

To: Bill Eadie <wle4@unbeldi.com>



Bill,

I hope you and your family have had a relaxing—or at the very least, enjoyable—holiday season. My team definitely needed the break, but I know we've already to roll up our sleeves for 2025.

One persistent file I know I will continue spending time on in 2025 is encampments, which was in the news once again at the end of last year. On December 5, Premier Doug Ford sent a letter responding to a number of mayors across Ontario indicating [his government's intent to provide municipalities the ability to regulate and prohibit encampments](#). One week later, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing introduced [Bill 242, "Safer Municipalities Act, 2024."](#) Speaking of this new bill and its potential infringement on constitutional rights previously articulated by the courts regarding encampments, Premier Ford said he would, if necessary, invoke the notwithstanding clause to allow violations the Charter of Rights and Freedoms towards this goal.

This request from these mayors—which does not include Mayor Olivia Chow or the City of Toronto—[follows a 2023 Superior Court of Justice decision in Waterloo](#). This decision declared that removing individuals from an encampment without being able to provide an accessible shelter bed is a violation of section 7 – Life, liberty and security of person – of the [Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#). Whether one agrees with this decision or not, it has shaped the municipal response across Ontario to encampments, including Toronto's.

Following a report from the [Ombudsman on the City's previous actions related to the clearing of encampments](#), the [Interdivisional Protocol for Encampments in Toronto](#) was created, guiding the City's response to encampments since.

Bill 242 does two things. First, it gives police the authority to arrest and charge someone who is consuming illegal substances on public property with a potential \$10,000 fine and/or six months of jail time. Secondly, it tells courts to consider additional factors when considering a trespassing offense that could result in up to a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

On its face, this may seem to be a reasonable way for municipalities to deal with encampments. I'm unfortunately here to tell you that it's not.

Encampments are one of the most complex issues facing the city. The negative impact encampments have had in spaces like Allan Gardens, Moss Park and St. James Park is undeniable. Those impacts include public safety concerns, unreasonable noise, drug dealing and much more. I do not accept that a tent is a suitable alternative for a shelter bed, and should not be a stopgap measure until proper housing can be secured. That is why I continue to work with City staff and my council colleagues to expand accessible shelter options and housing opportunities.

Financial penalties and incarceration will not solve the core issue that is driving encampments: a lack of deeply affordable housing. It doesn't make sense to fine someone who is living in a tent in a park \$10,000; they aren't going to have the money to pay it in the first place, and it's going to make it much more difficult to stabilize and house that individual if collection agencies are holding several thousand dollars over their heads when they are trying to rebuild their life. Bill 242 is not solving the root causes that create encampments, it's only going to help perpetuate it.

Jail time for public drug use is equally asinine. Let's put aside the costs to policing, court services—including paying a prosecutor and a public defender—and let's just focus on the costs of incarceration. [It costs over \\$300 a day to keep your average person in jail](#) in Canada. It would likely be cheaper for the province to send an individual for six months to a hotel in downtown Toronto with \$20,000 in their pocket (or \$10,000 if you still want to fine them) than to put them in a jail cell for the same period.

Beyond the province's response, I need to call out all the mayors and councilors in Ontario who are supporting these measures. You don't need Bill 242; you just need to do the work.

Toronto Centre was once home to one of the largest encampments in the country at Allan Gardens. Through hard work and perseverance at that park, the City was able to permanently house 98 people and connect 433 individuals to indoor shelter accommodation, allowing the City to remove the encampment. The City did this without needing police intervention and without violating any fundamental rights and freedoms. Importantly, this City did this work within the guidelines provided by the Superior Court of Justice.

Instead of seeking provincial assistance to allow violations to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to "solve" encampments, municipalities should follow the Waterloo decision and create more accessible shelter spaces. Better yet, create housing targeted to your homeless populations so your residents can stay in their communities and support centres, rather than punishing them and pushing them out to neighbouring municipalities, including Toronto. This is the direction the Ontario Big City Mayors caucus recommended the province instead direct its energy toward, and is [supported by myself and over 75 mayors and councillors across Ontario](#).

Creating new housing and shelter spaces is not a simple matter. It takes effort, a lot of money and a thick skin to deal with the NIMBYism that often accompanies the opening of such facilities. Premier Ford has promised additional funding to create capacity in shelter systems and additional supports for those living with addiction, which are absolutely necessary. The future Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub planned for the downtown is welcome after over a decade of provincial neglect.

But living in a tent in a park is not a moral failure, it's a societal one. And it should be on all levels of government to address head on, rather than seeking to toss the problem in a jail cell.

2025 is going to be a very memorable year, with regime change in the United States, a likely provincial election, and a federal election. It will mean a lot of uncertainty for Toronto. I'm not going anywhere, so like me or hate me, I look forward to hearing from you about how we can make life better for everyone here in Toronto Centre.

Yours in Service,



Chris Moise
City Councillor
Ward 13 - Toronto Centre



2025 Budget Town Hall

It's that time of year again, and I'm proud to be joining Deputy Mayor Malik once again to hear from you about the City's budget.

Please join me on January 16 at 6:00pm at City Hall (100 Queen Street West), 2nd Floor. You can RSVP by [visiting my website](#).

Have Your Say: Citizen Budget 2025

My office has partnered with a Canadian company, [Ethelo](#), to create an interactive budget simulation exercise that we are calling Citizen Budget gathering public feedback on the City of Toronto's annual budget.

Create Your City Budget

BudgetTO 2024 Getting What Matters to You!



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Upcoming Events



January 15: 2025 Budget Telephone Town Hall 7:00pm to 9:00pm (1-833-380-0687; *see article below*)

January 16: Ward 10 and Ward 13 2025 Budget Town Hall 6:00pm to 8:00pm, City Hall – 100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor (*see article below*)

January 21: 2025 Budget Committee Meeting, 9:30am to 6:00pm+, City Hall – 100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 1 (*see article below*)

January 23: 2025 Budget Telephone Town Hall 7:00pm to 9:00pm (1-833-380-0687; *see article below*)

January 29: REmarket, 10:00am to 7:00pm, 125 The Esplanade (St. Lawrence Market Tent; *see article below*)

January 30: REmarket, 10:00am to 6:00pm, 125 The Esplanade (St. Lawrence Market Tent; *see article below*)

1. BudgetTO 2025



We have officially launched our budget process here at the City and I want to hear from you about what our community's priorities and ensure they are reflected in Toronto's 2025 budget.

My office has made it easier to understand the budget process and how to get

involved. We have developed a [Budget Resource](#) with Budget 101 and information on Tax Relief Programs.

There are a number of budget consultations occurring in January for you to participate in. Mayor Olivia Chow and Budget Chief Councillor Shelley Carroll will be hosting two telephone town halls, I will be hosting a budget town hall with Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik and the Budget Committee will be holding deputations as well. Please consider joining one or more.

What: 2025 Budget Telephone Town Hall
When: January 15 and 23, 7:00pm to 9:00pm
Where: Dial 1-833-380-0687 or [join online](#).

What: Ward 10 and Ward 13 2025 Budget Town Hall
When: January 16, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Where: City Hall – 100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 2

What: 2025 Budget Committee Meeting
When: January 21, 9:30am to 6:00pm+
Where: City Hall – 100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor, Committee Room 1

For a full list of consultation opportunities, [please visit the City's website](#).

Please check out my [Budget 2025 webpage on Toronto Centre Projects](#) to learn how you can get engaged in the municipal budget process.

2. Ward 10 and Ward 13 Budget Town Hall: January 16

The graphic features a blue background with a faint city skyline. At the top left is the City of Toronto logo. The main title 'Let's Talk Budget 2025' is in white. Below it, a large white box contains the event title 'Ward 10 & Ward 13 Budget Town Hall'. To the right, two smaller boxes ask 'What do you want to see in the 2025 City Budget?' and 'Come out and have your say!'. The date and time 'Thursday January 16 6:00PM - 8:00PM' are listed, along with the location 'Toronto City Hall 100 Queen Street West'. Two circular portraits of Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik and Councillor Chris Moise are shown, with their names listed to the right.

Toronto

Let's Talk Budget 2025

Ward 10 & Ward 13 Budget Town Hall

What do you want to see in the 2025 City Budget?

Come out and have your say!

Thursday
January 16
6:00PM - 8:00PM
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West

Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

Councillor Chris Moise

3. 2024 Recap





Building More Housing

Worked to approve, fund, and open affordable, market, and supportive housing. Over 13,000 units were approved this year, 10 supportive housing units for Indigenous Men opened at 218 Carlton Street operated by Na-Me-Res, and 280 affordable & supportive homes opened at 65 Dundas Street East operated by Dixon Hall.



Building Healthy Communities

Worked with frontline health professionals and community members with lived experience to launch "Our Health, Our City", launch CORE a pilot partnership between Toronto Police and Toronto Public Health, and advocate for the full spectrum of healthcare from Harm Reduction to Treatment Services



Advancing Placemaking Initiatives

Worked with the community to rename laneways in Corktown, re-open the Yonge Street Linear Parks, name the Clock Tower Trail, and install branded neighbourhood signage in the Church Wellesley Village.



Getting People Moving Safely

Worked to deploy 29 new Traffic Agents, reduce the travel time on King Street, expand Bike Share & the Cycling Network, and approve the installation of 18 new Traffic Signals & 3 new Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras in Toronto Centre.



Reviving Allan Gardens

Worked with Shelter Staff to house 98 people and resolve the encampments at Allan Gardens, with Parks Staff to keep us on track for the completion of the Palm House restoration, and with the Friends of Allan Gardens to expand the Children's and introduce a farmers market.



Engaging, Empowering, & Recognizing Community Leaders

Worked to engage community by hosting 2 Environment Days, 3 TC Talks Roundtables, 6 Neighbourhood Town Halls, round 2 of Participatory Budgeting, starting a Ward Council, and through Toronto Centre Projects - reaching over 2500 users.



**All of this work and accomplishments could not
have been done without my incredible team.**

**On behalf of the Ward 13 Team,
Happy New Year!**

**Chris
Moise** Ward13
Toronto Centre
City Councillor

4. December City Council Highlights



The final City Council meeting of 2024 was momentous as we bid farewell to Dr. de Villa as our Medical Officer of Health and attended to items that addressed housing, rental standards and road safety.

[Please visit my website to read my recap.](#)

5. Toronto Centre Encampment Update January 2025



I take great pride in the strides we have made here in Ward 13 to connect encampment residents to housing, particularly with the successful resolution of the Allan Gardens encampment last October. To date, Allan Gardens remains free of any new encampments. Our dedicated City staff have displayed remarkable persistence and resolve, and for that, I thank them.

For the full update, [please visit my website](#).

6. Historic Queen Street East BIA AGM



The reconstituted Historic Queen East Business Improvement Area (BIA) held its first annual general meeting (AGM) with business owners and commercial property owners between Victoria Street to River Street on December 4, 2024. While the BIA was unable to pass a budget, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our volunteer-based board of management. Their tireless efforts in organizing this event and articulating their visions at the AGM were instrumental in recruiting new board members for its 2025 strategic plans.

To learn more, [please visit my website](#).

7. Pam McConnell Award for Young Women in Leadership: Apply by January 17



The Pam McConnell Award for Young Women in Leadership is looking for changemakers to honour. This marks the fifth edition of the award, which is open to women ages 16 to 29 in Toronto who demonstrate exceptional leadership, a commitment to social justice and inspire other young women. Applications open this Friday, December 20 and close on Friday, January 17, 2025.

Find more information, including submission requirements, on the [City's Pam McConnell Award for Young Women in Leadership webpage](#).

8. REmarket: January 29 and 30



REmarket

January 29 & 30, 2025

The SLNA Waste Reduction Group is holding its 12th REmarket, a two-day event for the collection of unwanted items.

A totally free market (FreeMarket) will also be held on **January 29**. Guests can donate and/or take items for free (not for commercial resale). Bring your own bag.

On **January 30**, Repair Café Toronto will be fixing clothing, jewellery, computers, home electronics, small appliances, housewares, and toys, while CultureLink Bike Hub will be doing small bike repairs and safety checks.

Please email reduce@slna.ca with any questions

 **St. Lawrence Market Tent**
(125 The Esplanade @Market St.)

January 2025

29
Wed
Donation collection, recycling services, & household hazardous waste drop-off*
@10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
FreeMarket
@10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

30
Thurs
Donation collection, recycling services, & household hazardous waste drop-off*
@10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Repair Café Toronto & CultureLink Bike Hub**
@11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*Please refer to our website for a list of what is accepted.

**Registration ends at 2 p.m., limit of 1 item & 1 bike per person.

Recycle



Donate



Full event details and guidelines can be found at:
www.slna.ca/remarket-guidelines



9. Shape Your City: Apply to a Board, Committee or Tribunal Today



**SHAPE
YOUR
CITY**

APPLY NOW

**CITY BOARDS, COMMITTEES,
AND TRIBUNALS**

**LEARN
MORE**



Do you want to support decision making at the City of Toronto? Give back to your community and get involved with local government. Toronto residents are [needed to sit on a range of City boards, committees and tribunals](#).

The City of Toronto delivers some of its key services through boards, committees and tribunals. The opportunity to contribute to this work ranges from local community centres to quasi-judicial tribunals to boards which oversee programs and services that impact people across Toronto on a daily basis. Each of these boards, committees and tribunals includes members of the public who apply to join and can be appointed by City Council to help shape their city.

To be eligible for appointment to a City board, you must be a resident of Toronto and at least 18 years old. Specific opportunities may have additional eligibility requirements. To support engagement with as many residents as possible, members of the public can generally only serve on one City board, committee or tribunal at a time. Learn more about what's available and apply online on the [City's Public Appointments webpage](#).

10. Apply Now for the Home Energy Loan Program

Heat and cool
your home
with an electric
heat pump.



The Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) makes it easy and affordable for homeowners to pay for energy efficient home improvements over time and access incentives to reduce costs. Once funding is approved, homeowners can hire the contractor of their choice and complete their renovations. Homeowners can improve the energy efficiency of their home and reduce carbon emissions by upgrading equipment at time of replacement or through ongoing or more comprehensive whole-home renovation projects.

There are various programs and initiatives the City of Toronto offers to homeowners on the pathway to net zero. Find more information on the [City's Better Homes: Green Resources for Residents webpage](#).

In the Community



11. Holiday Banquet 2024



I was delighted residents from across Ward 13 come together for a festive evening this past December 11 at the St. Lawrence Hall. My banquet was a wonderful opportunity to catch up, enjoy delicious food, and connect with friends and neighbours. My team worked to deliver a delicious meal from a variety of local businesses here in Ward 13 to all guests, and I'm happy to report that no stomach went unfilled.

To learn more, including the 2024 Community Builder Award recipients, [please visit my website.](#)

12. George Hislop & Norman Jewison Park Reopening



It was my pleasure to join the community in celebrating the reopening of George Hislop and Norman Jewison Parks on December 13. These spaces are part of the [Yonge Street Linear Park Network](#), and have been enhanced with new paths, seating, lighting, planting, trees and special features including integrated 2SLGBTQ+ and Indigenous art. Please visit these revitalized parks if you are in the area!

13. Toronto Centre Projects



[TorontoCentreProjects.ca](https://torontocentreprojects.ca) is an exclusive platform for Ward 13 residents and constituents, offering the latest updates on upcoming developments, park constructions, transit and traffic reviews. Our engagement tools allow residents to share their suggestions directly, including photos and descriptions. Additionally, we encourage residents to submit ideas for Participatory Budgeting annually to enhance their neighborhood. Register now to receive notifications about upcoming community engagements in your area!

14. Community Builder Awards

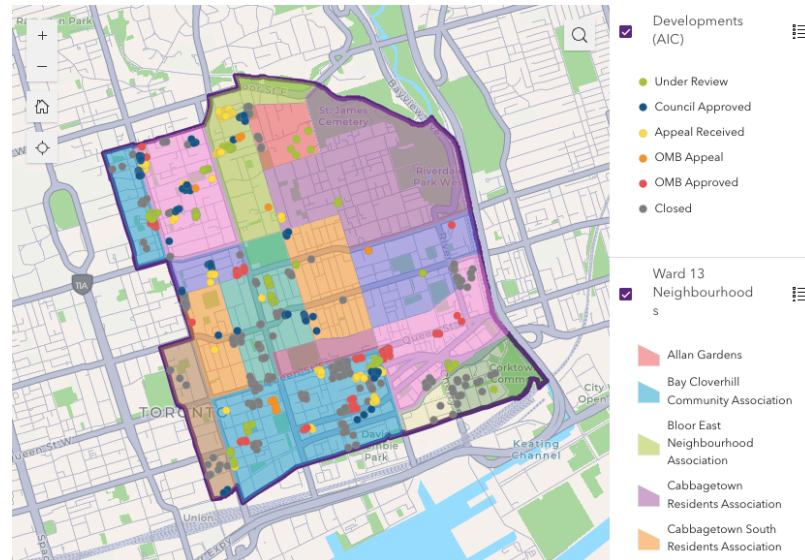


Toronto Centre is a vibrant community filled with remarkable individuals who go above and beyond to make our neighbourhoods a better place to live, work, and play. It's inspiring to witness the boundless dedication, energy, and passion that our residents pour into improving our community. To celebrate, I seek to honour the people who make Toronto Centre the best in the city.

[Nominations are open](#) to everyone in Toronto Centre, and we encourage you to participate in this celebration of our community's remarkable individuals, organizations, and small businesses.

[Visit my website to learn more and to submit a nomination.](#)

15. Ward 13 Development Map



A critical resource for many in Toronto Centre is knowing what the status of various developments in the ward is. City Staff has given my staff access to the [Application Information Centre's](#) system, allowing us to customize a map on our own website that is updated automatically when new developments appear and are updated. This should allow you to have the most up-to-date view on what development is occurring in your neighbourhood.

Please check out the [Development Map on my website](#).

16. Call for Volunteers

Passionate about community involvement? Want to make a difference? Join our event volunteer team for Councillor Chris Moise's office, enhancing lives in Toronto Centre.

Make an impact, develop skills in event planning and public engagement, and expand your network while finding personal fulfillment. Upcoming events include community clean-ups, environmental day, outreach day, and youth empowerment workshop.

Ready to create positive change?

Contact us at 416-392-7903 or [Councillor Moise@Toronto.ca](mailto:Councillor_Moise@Toronto.ca) to sign up.

Let's build a stronger, more vibrant community together!

Toronto's diversity includes the many Indigenous nations and peoples whose traditional territory is covered by Treaty 13 and the Williams Treaties. We honour and acknowledge that Ward 13 is located on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Diversity is our strength, and we're committed to building a better Toronto -- together.
