



**Olivia Chow Campaign  
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Toronto, ON  
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**Attn : Jason Dobbin, Chair  
Maria Denegri, Vice-Chair**

**Toronto Society of Architects  
c/o Design Exchange  
234 Bay Street, P.O. Box 18  
Toronto Dominion Centre  
Toronto, ON M5K 1B2**

**Dear Chair and Vice-Chair,**

Thank you for sending your questions to the Olivia Chow Campaign. We are happy to submit our responses to your inquiries. We look forward to working with your members and organization in the future to build a better city.

***1) Toronto is experiencing intensification - most significantly in the downtown core - as a result of provincial and municipal legislation. How should the City respond to this opportunity, in regards to:***

***a) Providing corresponding improvements to urban infrastructure, including parks, cultural and community facilities, and neighbourhood schools?***

As mayor, Olivia will work to to improve urban infrastructure now. The city has a significant infrastructure backlog on everything from roads to community centres. Olivia will ensure we invest to reduce the backlog and build our communities. Olivia will work with communities to identify additional infrastructure needs in areas with new development. Then, we can identify what they need before they are built, so that a proper plan can be implemented as part of the development.

Olivia will also bring the federal and provincial governments to the table to create a plan for long-term sustainable investment in our city. \$0.92 cents of every tax dollar leaves our city,

yet we are responsible for maintaining the majority of physical and social infrastructure people depend on. It is time to bring better balance to that equation.

Olivia's plan includes a number of social and physical infrastructure projects that meet the growing needs of all of our communities. Olivia will make short and long-term investments to improve transportation across the city, which are detailed below. She's also has a plan to make significant improvements in cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, because our streets and sidewalks are for everyone. Olivia will make sure 15,000 new units of affordable housing are built as part of the development of vibrant mixed-income neighbourhoods. Olivia is the only Mayoral candidate to have a plan to expand childcare options and locations for the growing number of families in Toronto. She will enhance our green infrastructure with more trees on our streets and in our parks and she is also committed to the creation of a public art foundation to support large scale works throughout our city.

### ***b) Increasing mobility options, specifically access to transit and cycling infrastructure?***

Olivia's transit plan was recently called the "best plan" by the Toronto Star. Her multi-modal transportation plan includes cycling, driving, pedestrian safety, and increased investment in transit. Her short-term goal is to provide better bus service. Her medium-term goal is the above-ground rail in Scarborough to replace the aging SRT, with 4 more stops, 4 years sooner and \$1 billion less than Tory's subway plan. Olivia will also bring LRTs to Finch and Sheppard as planned by Metrolinx. The long-term goal is a subway relief line and maintaining a state of good repair which includes investment in Wheel-Trans and accessible stations. This plan is at [oliviachow.ca/transit](http://oliviachow.ca/transit)

The TTC is a central pillar for regional transit in the GTA, and as such, should be properly funded by the Province. Olivia has the experience and proven leadership skills to work with the province so that it pays its fair share to run the TTC, like they used to before 1998.

Olivia is the only candidate committed to increasing cycling options for residents. As mayor, she will expand separated and designated bike lanes across the city by 200km. In the last 4 years, Rob Ford only built 2km, and removed other bike lanes. Olivia will see a tripling of cycling infrastructure across the city. This is good for cyclists, this is good for drivers this is good for pedestrians, this is good for our city. Check out much more at [oliviachow.ca/cycling](http://oliviachow.ca/cycling)

Olivia has committed to a zero pedestrian fatalities policy that starts with fixing 100 of Toronto's most dangerous intersections and giving neighbourhoods the power to lower speed limits on their residential streets.

### ***c) Addressing the increasing challenge of affordability and opportunity within our growing city?***

Olivia grew up in affordable housing as a newcomer to Toronto. She understands the concerns residents face as income equality grows and the struggle of unemployment. Her long-standing commitment to affordable housing and social programs will help deliver results in this area. As mayor, Olivia will introduce a target of 20% in new affordable units in new residential development in the city. Working with developers, her plan will build 15,000 new affordable rental units over the next four years. Olivia is also proposing that governance at TCHC be re-structured to include a more decentralized, tenant- and community-driven approach. A pilot project would start with seniors' housing.

She will also enhance public services so families can live with less financial strain. For example, the city's after-school recreation programs, which she helped create as Child Advocate at the City of Toronto, will be expanded to 40 new neighbourhoods. And student nutrition programs which she piloted in 1989 will be expanded as well. Olivia is the only candidate with a progressive vision to improve services for residents, improving communities and making services more affordable. You can read more at [oliviachow.ca/housing](http://oliviachow.ca/housing).

***2) What is your vision and specific strategy for implementing that vision regarding the City's role in the promotion of public health with respect to the following:***

***a) The health of the natural environment, including air and water quality?***

As mayor, Olivia will ensure the municipal government plays a prominent role in protecting and improving our environment. Olivia's current policies and strategies support new investments to address environmental concerns. Currently, businesses that discharge pollutants (e.g. nitrogen) into the sewage system pay the city a fee to treat it for them. But the fees don't cover the true costs, meaning we are subsidizing polluters. Olivia would move to full cost recovery, which would generate \$3.5 million more a year, which she would use to restore our tree canopy by planting about 100,000 more trees a year.

Olivia is the only candidate with specific policies to help address multi-modal transportation whether by foot, bike, TTC, or car. By helping to make carbon-free or low-carbon travel easier, we can make better ecological choices. Transit investment and getting people out of their cars will make the biggest difference in reducing our contributions as a city to climate change.

As mayor, Olivia will direct city staff to undertake an update to the 2008 "Ahead of the Storm" report on climate change prevention and mitigation programs in our city. Olivia supports the recommendations of the city's Energy and Environment division that prepared a report on North American large-city best practices in environmental protection. Information about environmental best practices should be part of how the city does business but also in the suite of programs and services our city provides businesses. Olivia will include this in her consolidation of small business supports through Enterprise Toronto.

Finally, Olivia has strongly advocated against jets and the expansion of Billy Bishop Airport. She does not support the estimated \$100+ million cost to taxpayers on our beautiful Toronto Islands. She has also said no to the Enbridge Line 9 proposal which stretches across the north of our city. Olivia does not support Oilsands bitumen flowing through our city.

***b) The health of citizens, including active transportation (walking and cycling) and access to healthy food options?***

Olivia's commitment to active, healthy communities is evident in her cycling plan, which will increase bike lanes by over 200km across the city. Additionally, increasing access to parks will support various groups in encouraging outdoor activities. Her zero-pedestrian fatality target will see the city redesign 100 of the most dangerous intersections in the city. She is also a long-term nutrition proponent dating back to 1989, when she started our city's student nutrition programs. As mayor, she will expand these programs to help address the 29% of kids living in poverty in our city.

***c) Integrating public health objectives into infrastructure investments and development approvals?***

Olivia believes in building health communities. That's why she plans to invest in public transit and active transportation infrastructure now. Olivia knows that as communities undergo intense development, careful thought must be given to ensuring positive health and wellness outcomes are developed as well. Her 20% affordable housing target for all new residential development is one example of this, and Olivia will also use the development permits system and section 37 funds to ensure each community's unique health and wellness needs are supported by new developments. Secure, stable employment is a key social determinant of health. Olivia's plan to create Community Benefit Agreements for all major city infrastructure projects will leverage an investment we are already making into training and good jobs for youth and other underemployed vulnerable groups.

Thank you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

- Brian Chang  
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