

Investing in Toronto's Future: City of Toronto Long-Term Financial Plan Public Consultation Overview

The City of Toronto has engaged an external firm, Argyle Public Relationships, to conduct a consultation on the Long-Term Financial Plan as [directed](#) by City Council at its meeting of July 2016.

The consultation will gather input and advice on how to ensure Toronto is a modern, mature government. Specifically, we're consulting Torontonians on how the City can look at managing expenses, raising revenues and making the most of our assets in order to build the city we want and deserve.

Two rounds of public consultations will take place, the first starting in November 2016 and another early 2017. Each round will be supported by online, in-person and other forms of engagement. Details will be shared with the public as they are available, including the dates and locations of public meetings, background information and preliminary findings.

The consultation will include:

- Accessible resources, including information and materials to support public participation and help gather diverse perspectives on the topic of the City's long-term financial direction and plan.
- In-person and online opportunities to provide input into City decision-making, including objectives for service excellence, value for residents and businesses and accountable financial oversight.
- An engagement strategy to encourage participation from a diverse range of Toronto residents, including youth, seniors and those who may not typically be engaged in civic processes.
- Resources for organizations, individuals and City Councillors to support discussions and input.
- Opportunities for the City Manager and senior City officials to present information to the public and discuss the City's financial context.

Regular information will be shared with the public at every step of the process, including data collected and reports summarizing the results of the consultation. All feedback will be considered by the City as it establishes a framework for mature governance and long-term financial stability.

Two Phase Consultation Timeline

Phase 1: Fall 2016 will focus on:

- Providing opportunities to learn about the City's financial framework and encourage exploration of the issues through dialogue.
- Seeking advice to guide decision-making on City revenues, expenditures and assets to support a multi-year revenue strategy, multi-year expenditure management strategy, and to maximize the use of assets in supporting service delivery.

- Identifying issues where there is significant public support, common interests, and where differences of opinion exists.

Phase one findings will be included in a Consultation Progress Report.. The raw data from this phase will be posted on Open Data Toronto.

Phase 2: Winter/Spring 2017 will focus on:

- Building on the findings of Phase 1 by seeking in-depth advice on key issues or areas requiring additional study, or where critical differences exist.
- Consulting on the City’s long-term financial direction, as well as strengthening the City's governance, financial management and oversight of City programs and agencies and supporting Council in setting priorities and outcomes in order to deliver its strategic agenda.
- Reporting on public input organized by theme to the elements outlined in the long-term financial direction report and findings which support the implementation of a sustainable, coordinated, long-term financial strategy.

Findings from both phases will inform a Final Report that will be submitted to the City Manager’s office. The raw data from this phase will be posted on [Open Data Toronto](#).

Opportunities for Input

The public will have a range of ways to engage with the program, including:

- Public meetings
- Online viewing of public meetings (webcasts)
- Online feedback tools and learning materials on a dedicated website
- Resources for use by organizations, individuals and City Councillors to support discussions and provide input
- Additional mechanisms for soliciting input: surveys, polling, public events, social media, and partnerships with community organizations.

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