



## **Deputation to the City of Toronto Executive Committee – July 28, 2011**

Hello, my name is Linsey MacPhee and I am Manager of the Toronto Drop-in Network, a member driven organization of over 50 drop-ins throughout the City of Toronto. I am here to represent our members and their participants, some of whom are the poorest and most vulnerable Toronto residents.

We are concerned about the impact of eliminating the Community Partnership Investment Program on drop-ins and their participants. Mayor Ford, you have said that the needs of vulnerable people will not go unmet in the City of Toronto; but the reality is they are already going unmet, we see evidence of this every day in drop-ins. Drop-ins are often the canary in the coal mine and were among the first to alert us to the affordable housing crisis, growing hunger and lack of access to transportation. For example, since 2008 drop-ins have seen a doubling of demand for meals as the global economy struggles toward recovery and people's already inadequate incomes are eroded by rising transportation and food costs. People come to drop-ins in hard times and they are staying. Attendance is way up. Without investments in community partnerships throughout the service delivery system people coping with job loss, extreme poverty, health crises, mental health issues and addictions will face further struggles and barriers to achieving and maintaining a healthy, productive and fulfilling life. You might call this perpetual struggle a loss of human capital, you might call it suffering.

While the City of Toronto is a minority funder of drop-ins, Community Grants are an important part of their funding base as well as an important support of the services drop-ins link people to to help find and maintain housing and achieve other outcomes. Dollars from the CPIP are leveraged by drop-ins and community based organizations meaning a small contribution from the City of Toronto produces a much larger return in services delivered to Toronto residents.

I will use the example of drop-ins to demonstrate the value of investment in community partnerships. A million dollars in City funding generates a further \$8.34 million in homeless and housing support in the community from other funders and private donations. This figure would likely be well over \$10 million if in-kind contributions are factored in. I am sure you agree that this is a good return on investment, but this also means that cuts in community partnership investments are amplified 10-fold.

Consolidation of community grants with funding from other orders of government creates further impacts and defacto cuts to community and city run services. If community grants are cut, it will set off a wave of secondary impact in the consolidated programs. We don't believe these secondary impacts have been adequately explored in the Core Services Review or considered in KPMG's risk analysis on eliminating the CPIP.

Ultimately, when the full impact is considered eliminating investment in community partnerships will result in increased homelessness, hunger, ill health, violence, crime, personal injury and preventable deaths – these are the crises that will have to be managed by more costly City services like EMS and the Toronto Police Service.

Reviewing core services is a valuable exercise – and we appreciate working in and with a City that is reflexive about what it does and how it does it – it is, however, a process that requires more time, more diverse input and more consideration than it has been given in this city this summer. Fiscal rationality is important, but it is not the only measure by which we understand value. We are concerned that the KPMG report has identified “opportunities” in silos, based solely on fiscal rationality and without regard to social impact. There is no overall plan. This Committee and Council deserve a full cost accounting in order to make informed decisions.

For this reason we are asking Executive Committee to:

1. Refrain from making any recommendation to reduce or eliminate the Community Investment Partnership Program to the regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting of September 19<sup>th</sup>, and
2. Request of the City Manager that he inform his recommendations in his report to Executive Committee on September 19<sup>th</sup> with a full cost accounting of the impact of elimination or reduction of the Community Partnership Investment Program.

Only then do we believe you will have the information you require to make informed decisions as stewards of the public trust.

Contact:

Toronto Drop-in Network

91 Bellevue Avenue

Toronto, Ontario

M5T 2N8

[tdin@ststephenshouse.com](mailto:tdin@ststephenshouse.com)

416-824-4172