

Community services play a critical role in strengthening the economic and social well-being of our city. Each day, thousands of people in Toronto depend on quality services like child care, home care, children and youth recreational programs, crisis intervention, family counseling, employment/skills training, and immigrant and refugee programs.

Yet the city's community social service infrastructure is fast deteriorating. The ability of agencies and front line community workers to fulfill their critical role is seriously threatened due to:

- Chronic government under-funding and cut-backs, and the processes by which community service agencies are funded
- Increased demand for services due to the growing wealth gap and a decade of cuts to welfare, social housing, child care, health and education

Here are our campaign goals:

Build political momentum for change among the public, politicians, policy decision-makers and funders by demonstrating the essential role that the community services sector and its workers play in our city and communities.

Increase core, stable and fair funding for community service agencies, allowing them to adequately meet operating costs on a long-term basis and ensure that agency workers:

- Receive fair wages, benefits and pensions, commensurate with cost-of-living in Toronto
- Have more stable, less precarious jobs along with professional career opportunities.

Support continuing efforts to have all governments implement the Code of Good Funding Practices.

Build a unified voice for change among the community services sector, unions and allies (including faith groups and community coalitions) through empowerment and capacity building of agencies, including smaller and more vulnerable organizations.

Find out more: www.socialplanningtoronto.org

Advocacy Committee November 2008