

To: Mayor and City Council

## **A Call for Sustainability in the City Budget**

Dear Mayor Morgan and Councillors,

The Council and City Staff have done an excellent job in drafting a comprehensive Strategic Plan. Although we would like to see ALL outcomes from the Strategic Plan funded, Council has indicated they will only entertain a small number of new initiatives due to the increase in costs for current services.

On January 18th, 55 Londoners from across sectors convened over 2 sessions (one online and one in-person) to discuss community priorities for the Multi-Year Budget. The "Sustainability Summit: Your Say on London's Budget" was an innovative consensus-building exercise, resulting from deep collaboration among more than a dozen individuals and organizations that have met monthly since June 2023 to determine a small number of key fundamental sustainability items from the draft budget. This group translated information from the budget and disseminated it into the community, then collected and synthesized this feedback into collective action. The Summit follows the direction from Mayor Morgan: that if one or more budget items **generated broad community support**, those items would be strongly considered for inclusion in the budget.

Upon combining votes from participants in each of the two sessions, the items with the most support were:

**#P-51 and P-52 Transit Service Hours Growth and Zero Emission Bus Transition**  
**#P-9 Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Strategic Plan**  
**#P-11 Community Gardens Program Expansion**  
**#P-56 Section 3 CEAP Corporate Investment**

Also important to the group were:

#P-3 Rapid Transit Implementation

#P-14 Municipal Housing Development Resourcing

*Several people expressed the desire to prioritize items that supported a sense of community.*

### How we got there:

Fourteen business cases were selected for consideration at the Sustainability Summit using screening criteria that included:

- Reconciliation with Indigenous People
- Equity - gender, diversity and inclusion
- Climate - reduced GHG emissions
- Economic Development - cost savings and green jobs
- Good Health and Food Sovereignty

- Protecting Nature Areas and Biodiversity
- Climate change Adaptation
- Circular Economy - reducing waste
- Complete, Connected Neighbourhoods, housing for all, accessible public spaces

At the Summit, each of these business cases were discussed and prioritized through three rounds of voting. The six business cases listed above represent the top 4 items from both groups. *Business cases P-51/52 and P-9 were in the top 4 for both groups.*

In addition to the Summit participants, many other Londoners have indicated support for these business cases. Their signatures are enclosed with this submission.

We hope that your deliberations on the Multi-Year Budget will maintain a focus on the urgency of the combined climate and housing crises. While we acknowledge certain immediate needs, we hope that items that lay the foundation for a thriving, green and equitable future for all Londoners will be paramount in your choices.

Sincerely,



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