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## City of Toronto 2000 budget information

### News Release

April 18, 2000

### City of Toronto 2000 Budget Moves Forward

Operating budget recommendations of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) were reviewed today by the City's Policy and Finance Committee. This is the final step before City Council considers those recommendations next week.

On Friday April 14 the BAC completed its review. For the third consecutive year, a zero tax increase was recommended. The \$5.9 billion gross budget meets all existing financial requirements to operate City services. It also enhances some programs and services by a total of \$76.6 million.

Mayor Mel Lastman said, "I am proud of the teamwork that not only produced another zero per cent budget, but improved those services most important to residents. This is great news for Toronto."

Budget Advisory Committee Chair Tom Jakobek added, "This budget will do far more for the citizenry of Toronto than any other budget before it."

Chief Administrative Officer Mike Garrett said, "I'd like to congratulate the members of the Budget Advisory Committee, the Policy and Finance Committee, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer Wanda Liczyk and all the staff involved for their hard work in moving the proposed operating budget forward."

Highlights of the recommendations include:

- Adding 675 new hostel beds at a gross cost of \$15.2 M. This is a 21 per cent increase in bed nights from 1997.
- Adding 73 front-line police officers and 17 court officers, providing for a six-month community action program and approving a helicopter pilot project at a combined gross cost of \$5.2 M
- Adding a total of 64 paramedics at a gross cost of \$3.4 M, an increase of 21 per cent over 1997 levels
- Paying for 62 firefighters added in November from a July 1999 Council decision at a cost of \$2.8 M
- Approved \$13.7 M gross to implement the recommendations of the Children's Task Force

[A more detailed backgrounder](#) on the operating budget recommendations is available.

The proposed operating budget faced major new costs that included \$31.2 M in provincial downloading costs; the \$17.1 M cost of capital projects including debt service charges; and the \$4.3 M increased cost of snow removal contracts. Savings incorporated in the proposed 2000 budget included amalgamation savings of \$15.8 M (a cumulative

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City of Toronto: 2000 City Budget  
savings of \$304 M since 1998); social housing mortgage savings of  
\$14 M; a \$10.8 M net cost reduction in annual welfare costs; and \$4.2  
M in lower costs in solid waste management.

2000 Operating Budget Schedule  
Detailed 2000 Operating Budget Background Information

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