

Date: Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Hello everyone,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity today to ask you to support 2019 budget allocation for children's recreational and after school programs, affordable housing and transit.

We are: Suganthine Sivakumar, Hanna Dada and Nisreen Hakim from Dorset Park Area and ward 22.

We are parent leaders with the Middle Childhood Matters Coalition Toronto, which is an active group of social service agencies and community members working together to increase access to high quality out of school programs for all children ages 6-12 in Toronto.

**Suganthine:**

I am a single mother raising my son who is 12 years old living in Toronto Housing Building in Dorset Park area. I want to stress the importance of funding affordable high quality and accessible out of school programs in neighborhoods with low income newcomer and racialized families because those programs teach our children social skills, help them build friendships and the most important thing is they keep them away from street culture that is related to the spread of violence in the city, so please allocate funds to keep programs as Dorset Park After School Program running.

**Hanna:**

As a Syrian newcomer father for a family of 4, I've been living in Toronto for almost 3 years and every day I struggle to meet my ends because life is so expensive here. It is important that everyone in Toronto has access to public

transit. I want you to properly fund the TTC and fight to keep it publicly owned by the City of Toronto.

**Nisreen:**

As a mother of 4 children, it is a struggle every month to meet ends and pay rent. Housing cost has sky rocketed in the past few years and the cost of living is so high for us low income families living in Scarborough. We need affordable housing because it is our right to live in dignity in this city.

In the end, we hope that you will remember our asks as you take decisions on 2019 City Budget.

Families always want sustainable, affordable, accessible and high quality programs for our children 6-12 years in our communities. We want affordable housing and affordable transit option for working people.

Thank you.