

MAYOR'S update

A Personal Message from Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie



Mississauga's 2015 Budget is a solid financial blueprint for our thriving city and our promising future. We engaged people. We heard directly from residents about their funding priorities. Together, we have put forward a fiscally responsible, balanced budget that respects taxpayers' hard-earned money, while safeguarding local investments.

To achieve our investment goals, the overall impact to businesses is a 1.4 % adjustment to the property tax bill. This includes 0.9 % for the City's services and 0.5 % for Region of Peel services. The City of Mississauga's 2015-2024 capital plan includes a total of \$25 million for the development of the Hurontario-Main Light Rail Transit (LRT plan).

The provincial government's announcement that the Hurontario-Main Light Rail Transit plan will receive full provincial funding amounting to \$1.6 billion – is a game changer for Mississauga's promising future. The LRT will transform how our world-class city moves, grows and thrives. It is truly transformational for our City.

We found over \$6 million dollars in savings across different departments through innovation and continuous improvement initiatives. We will reinvest these savings in local priorities. For example, Mississauga's financial plan includes improvements to the Meadowvale Community Centre and Library; new fire stations to support first responders and to keep residents safe; more community trails for walkers, cyclists, and runners to enjoy; and improved bridges and roads to help residents, commuters, transit riders, and workers, better travel throughout our city.

Our City's annual operating budget is nearly \$700 million, but like most Ontario municipalities, Mississauga is limited by what we can fund with property taxes. I am committed to working with all Members of Council to partner with senior levels of government to deliver results for families. As Canada's sixth largest city, I believe that when all governments partner to advance Mississauga's priorities, all of Ontario and Canada are better positioned for success.

Our 2015 Budget is a strong foundation that will better position Mississauga to further develop into a world-class city to work, do business and succeed.

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Warmest Regards,

**Bonnie Crombie, MBA, ICD.D.
Mayor of Mississauga**

Moving Forward with Mississauga's Light Rail Transit (LRT) Plan

Metrolinx identified the Mississauga LRT as a leading rapid transit priority for investment in the area. The City of Mississauga has one of the strongest business cases of any of The Big Move projects and is doing its part to move the Hurontario-Main Light Rail Transit (LRT) plan forward.

Mississauga has already funded \$15.4 million toward planning studies, an environmental assessment, and preliminary design work. Our 2015-2024 capital plan includes a total of \$25 million for the development of the Hurontario-Main LRT. The LRT will improve public transit, create jobs and generate economic development. It will elevate the quality of life for residents and unleash the potential of our downtown core. Our population is growing. We are planning new intensified developments and the LRT will help us achieve this.

Value for Money

Understanding current economic conditions and that public demand for accountability and value for money are increasing, it is more important than ever that Mississauga's Business Plans demonstrate responsibility with taxpayers' hard-earned money. We are working toward finding solutions that reduce spending while maintaining services and programs residents value most.

City Council directed staff once again to review their base budgets to find savings and efficiencies. For 2015, over \$6 million in savings across different departments were found. These savings are equivalent to reducing local taxes by nearly 2%.

The efficiencies and reductions that are incorporated into the 2015 Budget consist of a variety of items, the

most significant of which are: reduction in street lighting electricity consumption related to ongoing LED (Light Emitting Diode) conversion program; more cost effective benefit plans; contract savings for winter maintenance; street lighting maintenance and street cleanliness; lease savings related to purchase of seasonal vehicles; building maintenance contract reductions; IT equipment maintenance and license reductions; and the Advanced Transportation Management System that will improve traffic service.

Triple-A Credit Rating and the Launch of Mississauga's International Partnership Program Committee (MIPP)

The City of Mississauga's commitment to finding savings, showing discipline with taxpayers' money, and strategically investing to help our city grow, have also ensured Mississauga maintains its 'AAA' credit rating.

What does that mean and why is it important for our local economy? A Triple-A credit rating means Mississauga enjoys a strong financial reputation. It gives businesses and entrepreneurs – from across Canada and around the world – the confidence to invest; expand service offerings; create jobs; and achieve success right here in Mississauga.

Maintaining our Triple-A credit rating will benefit the hard work that will be undertaken by the new Mississauga International Partnership Program Committee (MIPP). MIPP will focus on creating new and existing connections with cultural business associations to help attract foreign direct investment, generate economic development opportunities, and improve the City's international competitiveness. MIPP will tell the great story of Mississauga's thriving economy, including our well-earned Triple-A credit rating.

For more information, please contact:

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