



# **WOMEN, EQUITY AND THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**Toronto Women's City Alliance - 2012**

**[www.twca.ca](http://www.twca.ca)**

# WHAT IS A MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT?

- Municipal governments are responsible to provide local services (i.e. water supply, garbage collection, roads, parks, sidewalks, libraries)
- The Province assigns municipalities their powers and responsibilities (section 8 of the Municipal Act, 2001)
- Municipalities are classified as one of three types; single-tier, lower tier, or upper-tier.



# HOW DOES THE CITY TOUCH YOUR LIFE?

- Transportation – affordability (cost of riding transit), accessibility (bus schedule & routes)
- Recreation Centre/Libraries –operating hours, user fee, programs for low-income families
- Childcare – accessible & affordable childcare facility
- Housing – accessible & affordable rental housing, maintenance and repairs
- Property taxes – a major source of revenue for local government, usually fund local resources such as school, parks and recreation programs, community safety

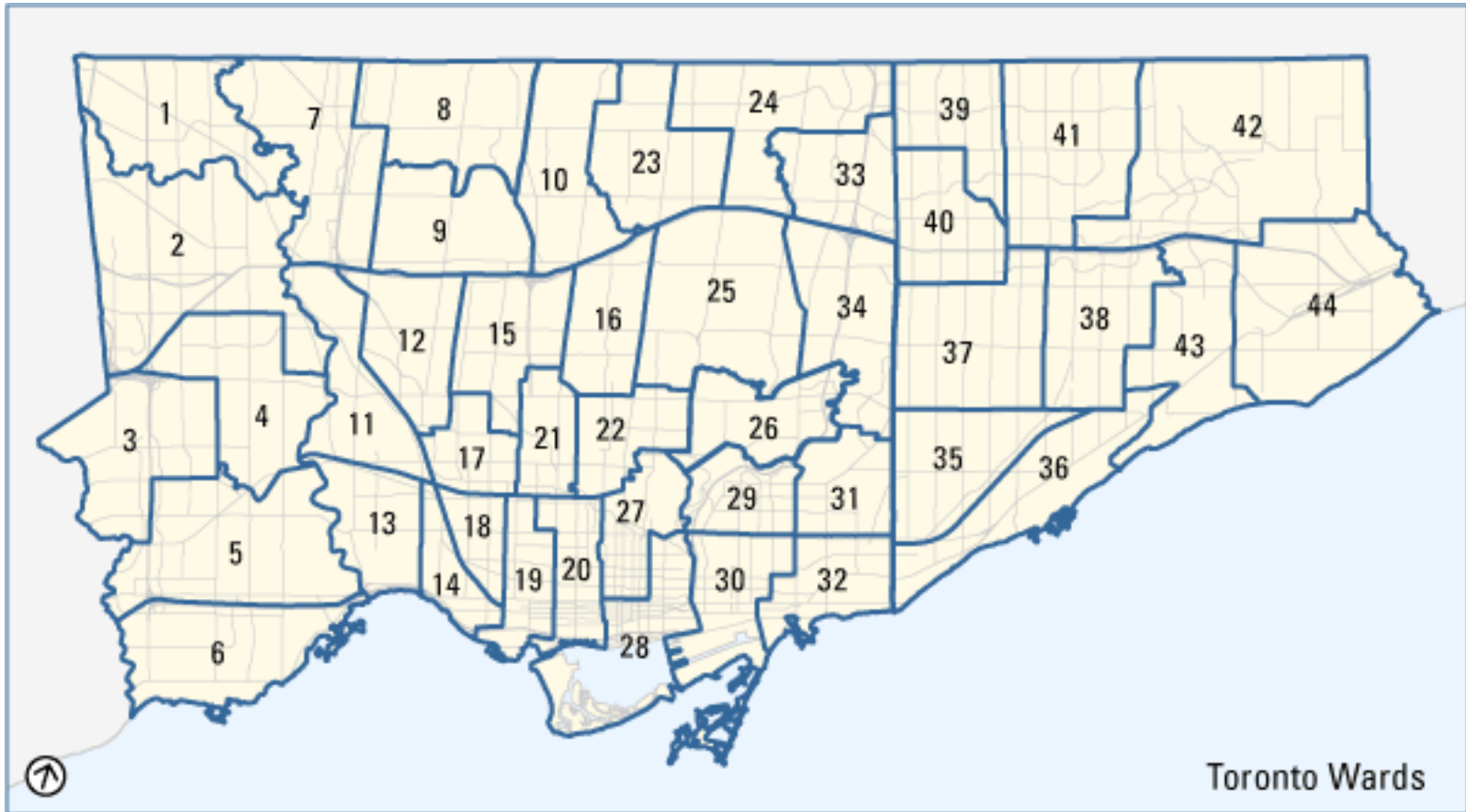


# YOUR CITY

- 6 former municipalities (Scarborough, East York, North York, York, Metropolitan Toronto and Etobicoke) amalgamated to form the new City of Toronto on January 1, 1998.
- City of Toronto is home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people.
- The City of Toronto employs over 34,000 full- and part-time employees at 5,000 different locations through 42 operating divisions.



# TORONTO'S 44 WARDS



# CITY OF TORONTO COUNCIL STRUCTURE



# AGENCIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & CORPORATIONS (ABCC'S)

City of Toronto Boards and Special Purpose Bodies					
Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations (ABCCs)				Special Purpose Bodies (SPBs)	
(Ontario Business Corporation Act) OBCA Corporations	Local Boards (restricted City authority)	Service & Program Operating Boards	Quasi-Judicial / Administrative & Positions	Pension Bodies - Trust Fund Administrators	Program or Political Advisory Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Build Toronto Corp</li> <li>➤ Invest Toronto Corp</li> <li>➤ Toronto Community Housing Corp</li> <li>➤ Toronto Hydro Corp</li> <li>➤ TEDCO operating as Toronto Port Lands Company (TPLC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Board of Health</li> <li>➤ Police Services Board</li> <li>➤ Public Library Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Exhibition Place</li> <li>➤ Heritage Toronto</li> <li>➤ Sony Centre for the Performing Arts</li> <li>➤ St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts</li> <li>➤ Toronto Centre for the Arts</li> <li>➤ Toronto Parking Authority</li> <li>➤ Toronto Transit Commission</li> <li>➤ Toronto Zoo</li> <li>➤ Yonge-Dundas Square</li> </ul> <p><b>Community-based</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Arena Boards (8)</li> <li>➤ Association of Community Centres (AOCCs) (10)</li> <li>➤ Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) (70+)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Committee of Adjustment</li> <li>➤ Committee of Revision</li> <li>➤ Compliance Audit Committee</li> <li>➤ Property Standards Committee / Fence Viewers</li> <li>➤ Rooming House Licensing Commissioner</li> <li>➤ Sign Variance Committee</li> <li>➤ Toronto Licensing Tribunal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Metro Toronto Pension Plan, Board of Trustees</li> <li>➤ Metro Toronto Police Benefit Fund, Board of Trustees</li> <li>➤ Toronto Civic Employees' Pension and Benefit Fund Committee</li> <li>➤ Toronto Fire Department Superannuation &amp; Benefit Fund Committee</li> <li>➤ York Employees' Pension and Benefit Fund Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Museum Boards</li> <li>➤ Toronto Preservation Board</li> <li>➤ Other advisory bodies established from time-to-time</li> </ul>
<p><b>OBCA Partnered Corporations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Enwave Energy Corp</li> <li>➤ Waterfront Toronto</li> </ul>			<p><b>Financial / Administrative</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sinking Fund Committee</li> <li>➤ Toronto Atmospheric Fund</li> </ul>		

**Note:** The City also makes nominations for board appointments to a number of external bodies

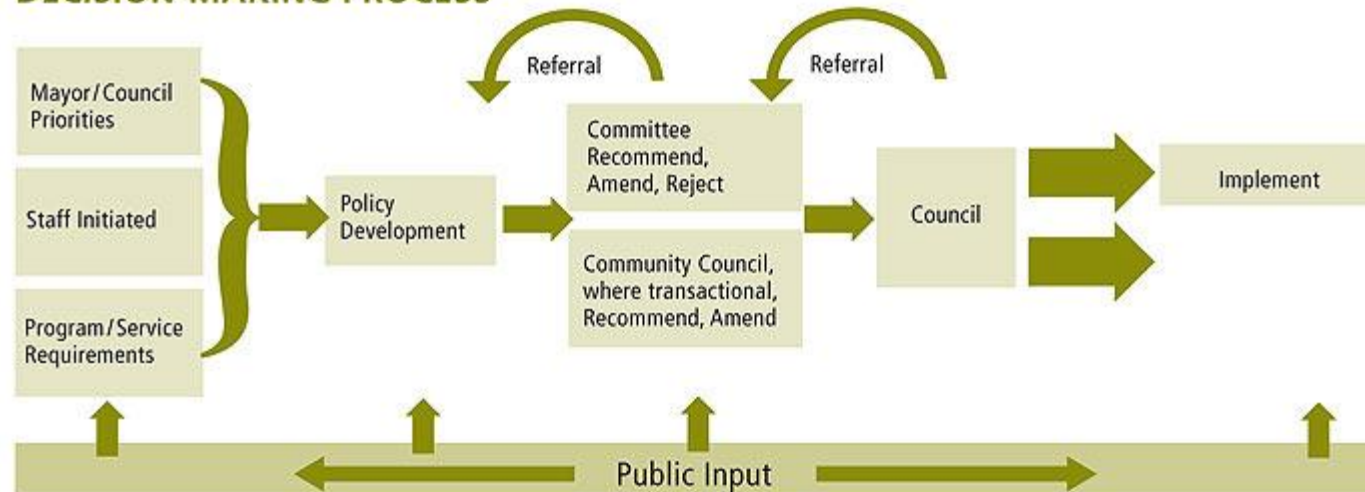
# GOVERNANCE: DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN TORONTO

## Who makes input into local government decisions?

➤ City Councillors, Civil Servants, Citizens/Residents, community Stakeholders (residents and others who work, shop, visit, or own property in the area)

**Even though not everyone can vote, everyone can participate in the decision-making process.**

### DECISION-MAKING PROCESS





# ACCOUNTABILITY

- Auditor General
- Integrity Commissioner
- Ombudsman
- Lobbyist Registrar



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Make your voice heard in a deputation
- Bring a petition to a public meeting
- Speak or write to your local City Councillor
- Exercise your right to vote
- Invite the councillor to your group/neighbourhood meeting.
- Join one of the City's many committees
- Work with or join a local group working on city issues

