Welcome to this conversation on the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020. The City has been working hard to update the Strategy, but we need feedback from residents of Toronto to help City Council make important decisions about the Strategy's direction.

This presentation begins with a tour of the road the City has been on to building strong neighbourhoods. It describes where we are now on this road, and where the Strategy will be going between now and the year 2020.
The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy is not just about the City – it's about building the partnerships Toronto needs to ensure all residents can succeed.

The implementation of the Strategy will begin with City Council approval in 2014, and the Strategy will be in place until the year 2020.

Here is the vision of the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020:

The City of Toronto will partner with residents, businesses and agencies to invest in people, services, programs and facilities in specific neighbourhoods to strengthen the social, economic and physical conditions that will deliver local impact for city-wide change.
The City has always been interested in making sure that it has neighbourhoods that offer their residents a good quality of life.

The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy is not new, and there have already been many steps taken on the road to strong neighbourhoods, and many achievements along the way.

The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020 has been updated to reflect what we have learned from past work, current research, and the opinions of Toronto residents, businesses, and agencies.

The next few slides will walk through the steps we have already taken on this road.
The Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy was first adopted by City Council in 2005, and built on Council's priorities of youth and community safety.

Under this Strategy, Council adopted 13 Priority Neighbourhoods. Over time, not enough investments in the programs, services and facilities that residents need had been made in these neighbourhoods. As a result, all of these neighbourhoods were experiencing or at risk of developing community safety issues that particularly affected youth.

Working in partnership with residents, community agencies, businesses, the federal and provincial governments and our key partner United Way Toronto, more than 1,200 initiatives took place. These projects reached more than 50,000 youth and 38,000 other residents in the Priority Neighbourhoods and beyond.
After seven years of successful implementation, the City met with its partners in the Strategy to identify what had worked well, and what needed to be improved.

We received a wide range of feedback about all aspects of the Strategy from residents in Priority Neighbourhoods, businesses, agencies, and from Councillors. This feedback was used to develop the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020.

In 2012, the City of Toronto reached out to find out how our targeted neighbourhood investments could be improved.
We were encouraged to learn that much of the work we were doing was making a significant difference in the lives of youth, their families, and their communities in Priority Neighbourhoods.

In particular, we heard that we needed to continue to target neighbourhoods for investment, and to work closely with neighbourhoods to address their priorities. We also learned what we needed to improve:

• We needed to ensure we were using the most up-to-date research for identifying neighbourhoods for focused attention.

• We needed to measure and communicate the impact of the work in a way that Council and the public could easily understand.

• We needed to change the name "Priority Neighbourhood" to make sure neighbourhoods were not stigmatized. These neighbourhoods are now called "Neighbourhood Improvement Areas," like "Business Improvement Areas," to better reflect the work that take place there.

• And we needed to make sure the Strategy worked to strengthen all neighbourhoods across Toronto, not just the ones targeted for investment.

Residents, businesses and agencies suggested several ways to improve our efforts. This updated strategy includes their suggestions and will reflect how neighbourhoods are doing now with an updated list of Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.
To make sure we are choosing neighbourhoods for targeted investment using the best available data, we have been working closely with United Way Toronto, the Centre for Research on Inner City Health, the Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network and others on a research project called Urban HEART.

“Urban HEART" stands for "Urban Health Equity and Response Tool." It was originally developed by the World Health Organization.

With this project, we conducted three rounds of consultations with more than 80 researchers, policy makers and program planners about the best data about neighbourhoods available.
Our research told us that there are 5 keys areas that need to be considered by City Council to choose Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

To help City Council choose which neighbourhoods should be selected, we will look at how neighbourhoods are doing in five different ways.
The **Economic Opportunities** key is about the economic status that neighbourhood residents can achieve. It includes income levels and quality job opportunities.

The **Social Development** key is about the opportunities and connections that help residents reach their full potential. It includes access to education and literacy, and access to social, recreation and cultural services.

The **Participation in Decision Making** key is about the opportunities for neighbourhood residents to get involved in making local and city-wide decisions. It includes voting in elections and working with neighbours on plans and priorities.

The **Healthy Lives** key is about the physical and mental health of neighbourhood residents. It includes access to medical care, disabilities and illnesses that residents live with, and the number of years that residents live in good health.

The **Physical Surroundings** key is about both the natural and built environment in the neighbourhood, community, and workplace. It includes access to transportation, parks and open spaces, public meeting spaces and air quality.
How should the City select the next set of Neighbourhood Improvement Areas?

To make sure the Strategy creates local impact for city-wide change, public sessions are taking place across Toronto.

At these sessions, residents will have the opportunity to discuss how City Council should use the 5 keys to neighbourhood success to choose Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

Today’s session has been designed to provide you with an opportunity to discuss questions about the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy with other residents.

There is also a Survey that you can complete here today or online. The Survey is available online in English, French, Chinese, Tamil, Tagalog, and Spanish.
In your small groups, please spend some time discussing each of these three questions.

Please choose one person at your table who will act as a note taker for your discussion. The note taker’s job is to record the most important points in your discussion on the note takers form.

Not everyone in your group needs to agree – you can also record different points of view that are equally important.

To begin Question 1, please review the Key Cards that are at your table. Put the Keys you think are the most important to a strong neighbourhood on the table in front of you.

Choose one Key at your table to start with, and have everyone at your table who thought the Key was important share their ideas. Spend about 5 minutes on the Key in total, and then move to the next Key.

At the end of Question 1, review whether you still think you have the most important Keys in front of you, and change the cards if you like. Count the number of times each Key Card is on the table as an important Key, and record this on the note takers form.
Today's Discussion Questions

1. Are all of the five keys to a strong neighbourhood important?

2. Is there anything else City Council should consider when it chooses Neighbourhood Improvement Areas besides the Five Keys?

3. What should City Council do to strengthen neighbourhoods that are not Neighbourhood Improvement Areas?

Now that you’ve talked about the 5 Keys, it’s time to move on to Question 2. You will have about 20 minutes for this question.

In your group, share your thoughts about anything you think is important to a strong neighbourhood besides the 5 Keys.

Try to be as specific as you can. The note taker should record the main ideas from your discussion on the note taking form.

Now move on to Question 3. You will have about 15 minutes for this question.

In your group, share your thoughts about what City Council should do to strengthen neighbourhoods that are not Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

Try to be as specific as you can. The note taker should record the main ideas from your discussion on the note taking form.
Thank you for sharing your ideas.

Here is how we will be using the ideas you have provided and the other advice that we get from residents.

When the public consultations are complete, we will combine the advice that participants have given us with the data about how well neighbourhoods are doing in the 5 keys to neighbourhood success.

Using both your advice and data, we will identify the neighbourhoods that we think are should be considered as Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.
Only City Council can make a decision about which neighbourhoods are Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

In the Spring of 2014, City staff will report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on what they think are the best choice of Neighbourhood Improvement Areas based on the advice of the public and the data available.

The Committee and City Council will consider the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas that are recommended in the staff report and make a decision.

Once City Council has made a decision, the implementation of the updated Strategy will get underway.

If City Council decides not to select some of the current 13 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas, there will be transition process to protect the gains that have already been made in these neighbourhoods.
• Only City Council can make a decision about which neighbourhoods are Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.

• In the Spring of 2014, we will report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee on what City staff think are the best choice of Neighbourhood Improvement Areas based on the advice of the public and the data available.

• The Committee and Council will consider the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas that are recommended and make a decision.

• Once Council has made a decision, the implementation of the updated Strategy will get underway.

• In all Neighbourhood Improvement Areas approved by City Council, the City will be doing many of the things that have been a successful part of the Strategy since 2005.

• We will continue to work closely with residents of these neighbourhoods to improve City services and facilities, and to partner with other funders and governments to strengthen the keys to neighbourhood success.

• We'll also be making sure that City policies strengthen all neighbourhoods, and that the Strategy creates local impact for city-wide change.

• And we'll be tracking our work and the changes in neighbourhoods to make sure we know whether the Strategy is successful.
We are really excited about the work that has already been done under the Strategy, and about the opportunities that the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020 will offer to all neighbourhoods.

We are looking forward to working with both the public and with our partners over the next several months, and committed to ensuring all of Toronto's neighbourhoods are strong neighbourhoods.

Before you leave, we would like to ask you to complete an evaluation of this session. The evaluation forms are blue.

You will also receive a copy of our Survey. You can complete it now, or you can drop it off at any public library by November 8, 2013 if you decide to complete it later. You can also complete the Survey online.

There is also a pink sheet available today titled "Other Thoughts." You can use this sheet to contribute anything that you weren't able to at today's discussion or on the Survey.

Please make sure you turn in your note taking forms, completed Surveys, Other Thoughts Form and Evaluation Form before you leave today.
Thank you for your participation. Please stay in touch:

Email & Web
neighbourhoods@toronto.ca
www.toronto.ca/neighbourhoods

Phone
416-338-8368
TTY: 416-338-0889

Twitter
@wellBeingTO
#TSNS2020