

# Ana Bailão

City Councillor for Ward 18

Committed to  
our Community



Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

## **Council Vote on Toronto Community Housing Committee**

Dear friends,

Toronto currently faces significant housing issues. Lately, these issues have been overshadowed by serious concerns of wasteful spending by the Toronto Community Housing Committee.

As is the case with any city department, the abuse of tax payer money is absolutely unacceptable, and I will be supporting a full review of the TCHC's finances.

While I approve of the ongoing investigations of the TCHC misspending, I have serious concerns with the proposal presented and approved at council to remove all members of the TCHC as it will leave thousands of community housing tenants without a voice or input into the decisions that will impact them most.

During my campaign, I insisted on ensuring residents are involved in the City decision-making process and are given a voice at City Hall. I strongly believe that supporting a proposal to remove the tenant representatives from the TCHC would be a breach of my campaign pledge and would sever the link between tenants and their municipal government at a time when our decisions affect them most. While this financial investigation continues, it is critical that TCHC residents be represented by their peers to advocate on their behalf.

Voting against this proposal was part of my mandate to protect tenants, who remain among Toronto's most vulnerable residents. I will continue to be a strong advocate for protecting tenants, making sure that the concerns of Toronto renters are heard, and ensuring that every tax dollar is spent carefully and appropriately.

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## **Council Votes for Electric Trains**

The extension of the Georgetown South section of the Air Rail Link (ARL) has posed serious concerns for the residents neighbouring the railway. The initial and main drive for the extension was to have a working rail link that

### **Contact Info**

**City Hall Office:**

Suite C42  
100 Queen Street,

would allow users to travel quickly and efficiently from Union Station to Pearson Airport ready for the 2015 Pan Am Games.

Due to the health risks to residents, and pollution in our neighbourhoods, I could not support the original plan to use Diesel trains along the corridor.

While the recent electrification study presented to the Board members of Metrolinx, estimates that it will require 7 years to electrify the railway, an estimate which will significantly overshoot the 2015 deadline.

On March 8 and 9, 2011 City Council adopted a motion urging Metrolinx to:

- 1) **Determine whether electrification of the ARL can be completed by 2015 and**
- 2) **If the ARL cannot be electrified by 2015, alternative transportation plans should be made to transfer people along the route during the Games - allowing for electrification to begin as soon as possible.**

I strongly believe that the electrification of the Georgetown GO and ARL is absolutely critical for the health and safety of Ward 18 and Toronto residents. For this reason I voted in favour of this motion, which also approved by Council.

By making the electrification of the Georgetown a priority, we can avoid the future costs of converting to electric from diesel.

With your support we can do this once and we can do this right.

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## ***Another Facelift for Dundas Street***

2011 will be a busy year on Dundas Street. First, Parking was restored and now major work is scheduled to give the street a much needed facelift. Whether you walk, take the streetcar or drive, you will notice the difference.

It is no coincidence that during my campaign I chose to have my office on Dundas Street. It is a major artery in our Ward that at the time had serious deficiencies. I wanted to help bring attention to these challenges that the local residents and members of the BIA were working so hard to fix.

As City Councillor, I worked hard to get parking reinstated and I continue to work hard in ensuring that other resources are deployed to resolve the remaining challenges along Dundas.

The scheduled work will include many changes to improve the streetscape, including new street furniture, parkettes, trees, new curb and sidewalk construction, road resurfacing and new traffic signals. The overhaul of Dundas Street from College St. to Dovercourt Rd. is expected to start in the Spring and conclude in the late Fall of 2011.

For more information on this project please follow the link to the Call Document: <http://bit.ly/ebbAJC>

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### ***Helpful Links***

#### **Toronto**

- » [City of Toronto](#)
- » [Business Services](#)
- » [Planning Department](#)
- » [Parks and Recreation Department](#)
- » [Toronto Community Housing](#)
- » [Toronto Cycling Committee](#)
- » [Toronto Forms online](#)
- » [Toronto Maps](#)
- » [Toronto Youth Cabinet](#)
- » [Toronto Transit Commission](#)
- » [Toronto Police Service](#)
- » [Toronto Police - 11 Division](#)
- » [Toronto Police - 14 Division](#)
- » [Toronto Fire Services](#)
- » [Access Toronto](#)
- » [City Council](#)
- » [Council meeting dates](#)
- » [Toronto Parks and Trees](#)

#### **Ontario Government**

- » [Ontario Government](#)
- » [211 - Community Connection](#)
- » [Assessment Review Board](#)
- » [Municipal Property Assessment](#)

#### **Government of Canada**

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[» Government of Canada](#)  
[» Citizenship and Immigration](#)

### ***Lisgar Park Working Group***

As part of an agreement with new planning initiatives on Queen Street West, a new public park is coming to the area.

Currently called Lisgar Park, this new green space will be a hub for arts, culture and community events for the area.

To ensure that community interests are incorporated into the park design, I have created a Working Group to include residents, local business owners, community organizations and City Staff to develop plans for the park.

I am pleased to be able to work with this group as we move forward in securing more green space, and more cultural exhibits for our area.

For more information on the working group, the meeting schedule or to participate in the discussion, contact [brootmc@toronto.ca](mailto:brootmc@toronto.ca)

### ***New and updated BIA Websites***

Please be advised that the following Ward 18 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) have updated their websites. The members of these BIAs have put a lot of effort into creating these websites, and I encourage you to visit them at your convenience.

[Little Portugal BIA](#)

[Bloorcourt BIA](#)

[Dundas West BIA](#)

[Bloordale BIA](#)

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## ***Creative Capital Initiative holding Public Consultations***

The Creative Capital Initiative was established to provide the Chair of the Economic Development and Culture Committee to receive advice from private citizens, and the cultural community on ways to enhance Toronto's role as an international cultural centre, and define actions to amplify the sector's economic and social contributions.

**The Creative Capital Initiative will hold two public consultations on Monday, March 28 and Thursday, April 7, 2011, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at Toronto City Hall, Council Chambers. The March 28th session will focus on strategic priorities for the cultural community. The April 7th session**

**will consider strategies related to youth and youth-focussed cultural organizations.**

The team has recently completed six weeks of information gathering and discussion with stakeholders. They have hosted nine focus group sessions with over 250 participants in Etobicoke, downtown Toronto, North York, and Scarborough; hearing a wide range of ideas, issues, and suggestions from an engaged group of citizens. For more information on some of these previous focus group sessions visit -

<http://www.livewithculture.ca/category/creative-capital-initiative/>

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## ***April Brings Spring Clean-Up Events Across Toronto***

The warm weather is fast-approaching and snow banks are melting to reveal a winter's worth of debris and litter. This is our opportunity to get involved and help keep Toronto clean.

The City's annual spring clean-up events are a great way to get together with friends, neighbours and co-workers to reduce everyday litter. We have a shared responsibility to keep our communities green. What better way to turn your ideas into action than to get involved and reduce litter.

It only takes minutes to make a difference - participate in the 20-Minute Toronto Makeover and help clean a public place for 20 minutes on Friday, April 15 at 2 p.m. Get together with family, friends and neighbours and clean a public space that is important to you - it could be a park or a local street.

Participating groups can pick up their cleaning supplies for either event (free garbage bags provided by GLAD® and a single glove per person) at Toronto Community Centres, Civic Centres, selected Toronto Works Yards listed on the registration form, as well as participating Pizza Pizza locations starting March 25 - while supplies last.

### ***Ward 18 Clean Up***

I welcome everyone to join me in a Ward 18 Clean Up on April 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting at St. Luigi's School and cleaning some of the more neglected green spaces we have in the ward.

**On April 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am, meet me at St. Luigi's Perth Public School where we will clean nearby parks before returning to the school for refreshments.**

This year, please reuse a grocery-size plastic bag or container from home to collect the litter to go in the GLAD® garbage bag.

We ask groups to register before April 8, so the City can coordinate where collection crews can find and haul away the litter bags. You can register for either event or get more information at [toronto.ca/litter](http://toronto.ca/litter). If the internet is not an option, call 311.

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### ***Upcoming Safety Walks***

Safety audits are tools to evaluate spaces from the standpoint of women, children and other vulnerable groups.

With members of the community, along with staff from many city departments, the following safety walks are planned to address resident concerns and to make our streets safer. From lighting to transit stops to garbage collection, these walks will identify problems and develop solutions to improve our neighbourhoods.

**Wednesday March 30**

-Queen Street

**Thursday April 7th**

-Lappin Avenue

**Thursday May 5th**

-Wallace and Campbell

**Thursday May 12th**

-Bloor and Lansdowne

\*All safety walks begin at 7pm. For more information on participating in these and other safety audits, please contact: [dkostov@toronto.ca](mailto:dkostov@toronto.ca)

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## Upcoming Events

### **March**

<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	Public Meeting on 830 Landsdowne development - Wallace- Emerson Community - Center at 6:30pm
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Public Meeting on Metrolinx Transit Hub - The Lithuanian House, 1573 Bloor Street West at 6:00pm
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	Community Transit Townhall - St. Helen Catholic School, 1196 College St. (in the Gymnasium) at 7:00pm

### **April**

<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Public Meeting on 14 Division construction - Europa Catering, 1407 Dundas Street West, Lower Hall at 6:30pm
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	Community Cleanup day - Starting at 10am at St. Luigi's/Perth Public School
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Easter Egg Hunt - Dufferin Grove Park, at 1pm

## This Spring Consider Tree Planting

The non-profit Toronto based organization LEAF is once again beginning to book consultations for their subsidized tree planting programs. These programs, funded in part by Live Green Toronto are designed to beautify yards, create wildlife habitat and reduce energy consumption in Toronto.

See below for more information or visit their website at [www.yourleaf.org](http://www.yourleaf.org)



## Welcome spring with a new tree for your backyard!

- a 30 min. consultation with our arborist
- a 5-8 foot tall native tree
- full planting service
- \$150-\$200 inclusive

Native shrubs also available

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**www.yourleaf.org**  
416.413.9244



### **Community Office Hours**

I am always interested in hearing your concerns or comments and I invite you to visit me during my weekly community office hours. Every Saturday I am available from 10am-12pm to meet with you, no appointment necessary.

Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Dufferin Mall  
900 Dufferin Street  
Suite 104 (The Abrigo Centre)

**\*No appointment necessary**

This newsletter was sent to you as a part of our office's commitment to ensuring that our constituents are aware of our actions on their behalf.

If you wish to be removed from our list please e-mail [brootmc@toronto.ca](mailto:brootmc@toronto.ca)

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