

TWCA Toronto Women's City Alliance Making Equality Matter.

Women-friendly Policies for Toronto's Official Plan*

	Themes, Burning Issues, Context	Proposed Policy	Fit in Official Plan
1	<p><u>SAFETY</u> <u>Burning Issue:</u> Violence against women continues to be a major issue within the City of Toronto.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> Sexual assault and harassment are daily realities for women and severely restrict their access to the city.</p>	<p>Insert new sub-point in Section 3.1.1.16: Council shall promote safety and security in public spaces, including streets, parks, and open spaces, public transit and the public parts of buildings. To encourage public safety and security for all persons, but with particular attention to women, transpeople, children, youth, seniors and persons with special needs, Council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and apply the Toronto Safer City Guidelines; • Apply measures such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), safety audits, and land use mix which can provide "round-the-clock" activity, presence of a wide diversity of people, access to help, and sense of safety; • Ensure safety design criteria are applied to all new public and private development proposals, including transportation hubs, streetscapes, housing, commercial, mixed use areas, parks, open spaces, etc.. • Ensure that community assessments such as safety audits are led by community members, residents and space users; and that community participation encompasses the voices of women and other vulnerable people to ensure the safety of the people who live, work and travel in the area are met. 	<p>3.1.1 The Built Environment: The Public Realm, insert a new sub-point: 3.1.1.16</p>

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2	<p>TRANSPORTATION <u>Burning Issue:</u> Transit schedules, fares, routes and design affect access for women. TTC fares are expensive and inaccessible.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> - Women are more transit dependent than men due to women's multiple roles, and economic and social realities. Yet, transit schedules, fares, routes and design do not reflect the travel patterns of this major user group; - Because of their social roles and constraints, women prevail in low income groups and are more likely to find transit fares unaffordable. Kingston and Waterloo have discounted monthly passes for persons on low incomes; - As care givers, women are reliant on public transportation and cars to accompany very young, elderly and frail dependents; - On the move, women are more vulnerable to sexual harassment and assault; - Past segregated and single use planning practice, frequently at very low densities, cause extra trips and thus cost time and money women can least afford.</p>	<p>New sub-point in Section 2.2.2 g) assist women, who tend to be more economically and transportation disadvantaged, more affected by sexual harassment and violence, and cope with fractured time frames due to their care giving, domestic, community and employment responsibilities, by ensuring that growth centres integrate intensive transit, residential, commercial, employment, service and public uses. Start-up business opportunities shall be supported in all these uses. Residences shall encompass a substantial portion of affordable housing and be supported by a full range of appropriate, affordable and accessible social services, such as child, health and senior care. Transit oriented development shall be based on participation of existing communities and have regard for their needs.</p> <p><u>New Policy 2.4.10</u> The transportation system will address the travel patterns and transportation needs of women care givers, low income earners and vulnerable and marginalized women, by: a) ensuring that transit schedules, fares, routes and design reflect the needs of these user groups; b) providing publicly accessible toilets along major transit and pedestrian travel routes; c) taking women's safety into consideration. d) developing a continuous, separated cycling network between all major origin and destination areas of the City.</p>	<p><u>Section 2.2.2</u> "Structuring Growth in the City: Integrating Land Use and Transportation, "Growth will be directed to the Centres, Avenues, Employment Districts and the Downtown, as shown on Map 2 in order to.....:</p> <p><u>Bringing the City Together</u> – A Progressive Agenda of Transportation Change, insert a new policy 2.4.10</p>
3	<p>HOUSING <u>Burning Issue:</u> Approximately 80,000 households are on the waiting list for affordable (social) housing</p> <p><u>Context:</u> Because of their social roles and constraints women prevail in low income groups and often spend more than 50% of their income on shelter, making them vulnerable to homelessness. Further, women who are single parents, victims of abuse or elderly depend far more on affordable rental and social housing than men. The Tower</p>	<p>3.2.1.2 -“especially existing affordable rental and social housing” will be maintained and replenished. To this end, projects such as the Tower Renewal Project shall be continued and expanded.</p> <p><u>New Policies 3.2.1.4</u> - Implement the HOT (Housing Opportunities Toronto, 2010 - 2020) Report recommendations, adopted by Council, to provide 1000 affordable units per year. - Eliminate the social housing waiting list within 10 years. - Permit “Live-work” combination in all housing as of right, subject to compliance with environmental protection and nuisance regulations. - Applicants on the affordable housing waiting list</p>	<p><u>The Human Environment</u> –Amend Housing 3.2.1.2 insert clause after “the existing stock of housing” will be maintained and replenished. Insert new 2nd sentence.</p> <p>New Policy following 3.2.1.3:</p>

	<p>Renewal Project has been critical to refurbishing affordable rental housing.</p>	<p>be prioritized in accordance to their vulnerabilities, such as victims of family violence, female headed single parenting households, and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>- (3.2.1.7 a) “double” instead of “full” replacement;</p> <p>- 3.2.1.9 – First Sentence to read: Residential Developments of 20 units or more (delete: on large sites, generally greater than 5 hectares) b) First Sentence to read: 25% of the proposed residential units shall be affordable rental or homeownership housing; "affordable" shall mean not exceeding 30% of moderate and low household incomes respectively;</p> <p><u>New Policy</u> 3.2.1.10 No discriminatory and restrictive criteria be applied to the location of supportive and shelter housing.</p>	<p>Amend 3.2.1. 7 – Redevelopment of Social Housing Properties a)</p> <p>Amend 3.2.1.9 – developments on large sites</p> <p>Amend 3.2.1.9 b)</p> <p>New Policy 3.2.1.10</p>
4	<p><u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u> <u>Burning Issue:</u> 20,000 children are on the waiting list for subsidized day care.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> Women, especially single parenting women and elderly women, depend on affordable and accessible social services such as child care, meals on wheels, senior citizens and recreation centres as supports to their many responsibilities in social reproduction and sustenance of urban communities and neighbourhoods.</p>	<p><u>New Policies</u> 3.2.2.1. d) giving priority to areas with concentrations of low income and single parenting households;</p> <p>3.2.2.2 a) Surplus school property shall remain publicly owned and if not needed for community services they shall be used to meet social housing needs;.</p> <p>3.2.2.8 Child care and other appropriate social service facilities shall be considered for inclusion in all new schools.</p> <p>5.1.7.3 Council shall request that Provincial Regulations for Development charges shall include the cost of social services needed by the population of a given development, especially child care and recreation facilities, either by providing space or payment in lieu.</p>	<p><u>The Human Environment – 3.2.2 Community Services and Facilities</u> New Policy: 3.2.2.1 d) New Policy: 3.2.2.2 a)</p> <p>New Policy: 3.2.2.8</p> <p>5.1.7. <u>Development Charges</u> New Policy: 5.1.7.3</p>
5	<p><u>EMPLOYMENT</u> <u>Burning Issue:</u> Women prevail in low/unpaid, temporary, part-time and shift work (often called precarious work) while being greatly under-represented in top levels of jobs.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> Women’s multiple roles as un/underpaid care givers need to be considered in designing and locating employment areas.</p>	<p><u>New Policy</u> Proposed staff policy be amended by</p> <p>3.5.1 i supporting employment and economic development that meets the objectives of Toronto's Workforce Development Strategy, including people-based planning and the Vision Statement on Access, Equity and Diversity and promoting infrastructure and support programs to ensure that all Torontonians, particularly equity-seeking groups, such as racialized youth, persons with disabilities, single mothers and new comers, especially refugees, have equitable access to employment opportunities; and</p> <p>3.5.1 j recognizing the full diversity of employment</p>	<p>2.2.4 <u>Employment Districts: Supporting Business and Employment Growth:</u> Sections 2, 3 and 4.</p>

		activities that are increasingly taking place in non-traditional employment areas, such as homes and public spaces, and strengthening the necessary regulatory frameworks and policies to support this employment.	
6	<p>INCLUSION</p> <p><u>Burning Issue:</u> No research or data is available to statistically substantiate women's issues, including those of girls, elderly, single parents, racialized and differently-abled women in Toronto.</p> <p><u>Context:</u> Discrimination takes place on the basis of more than just age and ability. An intersectional analysis is a more realistic and comprehensive way of examining the lives of residents.</p>	<p><u>New Policy</u></p> <p>5.4.1. f collection of data by sex, race, class, ethnicity, creed, age, language, sexual orientation, ability, aboriginality and other social variables to enable development of appropriate city policies and programmes as well as their monitoring and evaluation.</p>	<p><u>5.4.1 Monitoring and Assessment,</u> New Policy 5.4.1.f</p>

*Note: Toronto Women's City Alliance (TWCA) submits the above policy proposal to the Official Plan Review, which began in 2011. In this effort TWCA is supported by METRAC, OWN, YWCA, and Toronto Better Child Care Coalition. The format of these policy proposals (in bold) respond to the City Planners' request that our policies be specific in terms of how and where they fit into the existing Official Plan, and to TWCA's intent to state the reasons and urgency of these issues. The wording of the policies has evolved with the ongoing Review process. April 2015.