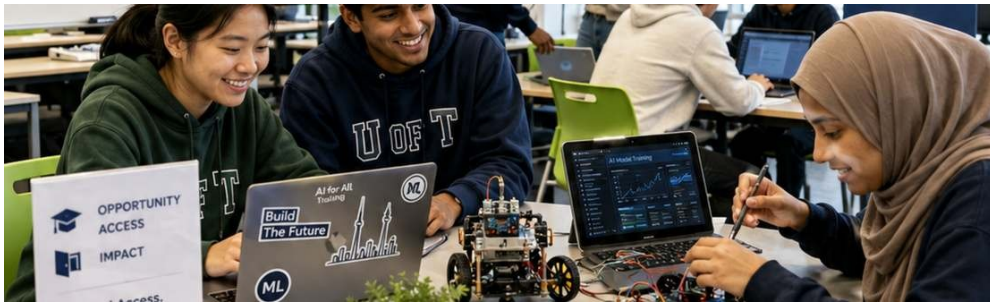


TORONTO LEADS AGAIN

Young Toronto

A city where children, teenagers, students, apprentices, early-career adults and young families can build a future.

Campaign Policy Proposal - Not a City of Toronto Publication



Jamie Atkinson for Mayor of Toronto

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People first. Families first. Machines serve. Democracy decides. Nature sets the constraint. Art gives the future meaning.

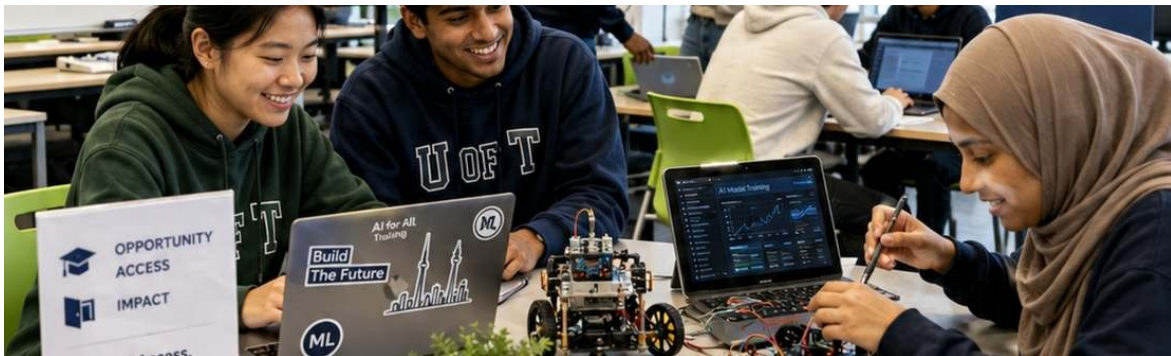
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Why this matters

Different life stages, different needs

Children, teenagers, post-secondary students, apprentices, early-career adults and young families are not one policy group. The City should design pathways around the transitions that can make or break a future in Toronto.



Project Six should feel tangible: young people learning, making, experimenting and building skills together.

Project Six

Supervised civic missions can let young people learn through real work in AI, robotics, climate, construction, art, accessibility and neighbourhood improvement - with safety, paid pathways and human mentorship.

Executive Summary

Young Toronto is organized around life stages because a six-year-old, a high-school student, an apprentice, a university student and a young parent need different things from the city. The common objective is belonging, capability and a credible path to an independent adult life in Toronto.

Project Six provides the distinctive civic-learning idea: paid missions, real problems, mentors and portfolios that let young people learn by doing. The strategy also connects housing, transit, recreation, creative opportunity, skilled trades, AI access and mental-health navigation.

The first term focuses on practical pathways and places to participate, while safeguarding privacy and avoiding the assumption that every young person should enter the same technology career.

Major commitments

- Organize youth policy by life stage and transition rather than one generic age category.
- Launch Project Six paid civic missions with mentors and public outcomes.
- Expand pathways into skilled trades, creative work, AI literacy and entrepreneurship.
- Improve youth access to recreation, libraries, community space and safe public places.
- Connect students and early-career adults to housing and transit information and supports.
- Coordinate age-appropriate mental-health and family navigation with Report 16.

How this fits the governing program

Financial treatment: first-term actions in this report must reconcile to Report 03. Unsigned partner funding and unverified technology savings are not booked in the municipal base case.

How to read commitments and numbers

Status	Meaning
OFFICIAL BASELINE	Current public evidence or an inherited program.
ADOPTED CITY TARGET	A target already approved by the City; not a new campaign promise.
CAMPAIGN COMMITMENT	A first-term action proposed by the campaign, subject to lawful Council/budget authority.
CAMPAIGN TARGET	A measurable result the campaign proposes to pursue.
PLANNING ASSUMPTION / SCENARIO	A decision-support input, not a guarantee.
PARTNER-DEPENDENT OBJECTIVE	Requires another government, agency, utility, institution or private partner.
LONG-RANGE ASPIRATION	Part of the 25-year direction; future Councils retain democratic authority.

Key public baselines and planning anchors

Indicator	Value	Date / status	Use in this report
Jobs in Toronto	~1.624M	2025 Official survey baseline	Current economic scale.
Net new jobs	23,410	2025 Official survey result	One-year result; do not extrapolate mechanically.
Youth unemployment age 15-24	16.8%	Apr. 2026 Official reported baseline	Comparator: 9.8% in April 2019.

Indicator	Value	Date / status	Use in this report
Housing facilitation target	285,000 homes	By Mar. 2031 Government target	Target, not forecast of starts or completions.
Proposed units in development pipeline	791,045	2025 pipeline Official pipeline	Planning capacity, not construction/occupancy.
Purpose-built rental units in pipeline	151,122	2025 pipeline Official pipeline	About 19.1% of pipeline.
Pipeline units with 2+ bedrooms	38%	2025 pipeline Official pipeline	Family-sized share.
Potential residents if full pipeline built/occupied	1.36M	2025 estimate Official City estimate	Illustrative capacity, not population forecast.
Infrastructure burden per additional unit	~\$104k midpoint	\$2024 reference External reference / planning reference	Reference range approximately \$78,000-\$130,000; use only as a system-level planning reference.

Toronto Today and Inherited Work

Current Conditions

This strategy begins from the programs, infrastructure and conditions Toronto already has. Existing work is identified as the inherited baseline; new campaign commitments are stated separately. Baseline facts that control the plan Baseline What the evidence says Youth labour market 16.8% unemployment among 15-24 year olds in April 2026; 9.8% in April 2019. [YOUTH1] City employment More than 16,000 youth aged 15-29 are employed across the City system each year. [YOUTH1] AI skills Ontario snapshot: 71,167 professionals requiring AI skills and 5,813 AI jobs created in 2025-26. [AI1] Housing/transit Youth opportunity is constrained by housing cost and travel time; the platform must treat housing and mobility as workforce policy, not separate files. Safety Safe Passage/Robot for Every Child remain standards-and-evidence questions; the priority is trusted adults, safe streets and youth agency rather than automated monitoring. Throughout this report, official baselines, campaign calculations, campaign proposals and partner-dependent decisions are identified separately.

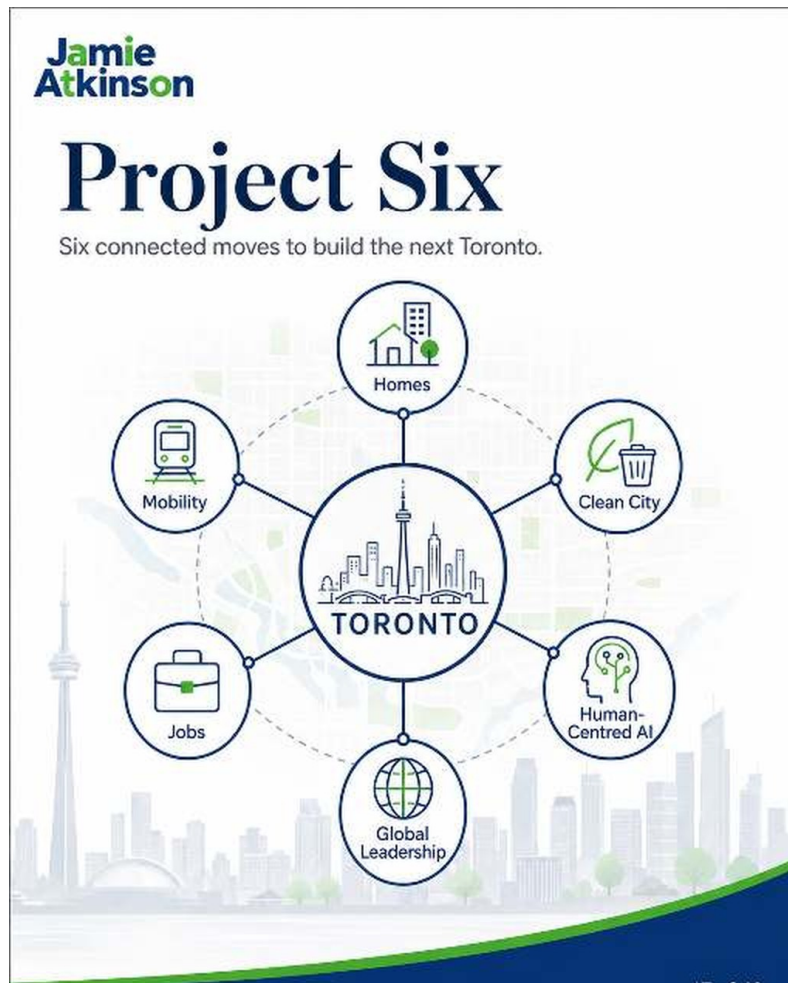
Vision and Outcomes

The strategy is organized around a small set of outcomes that residents and delivery partners can understand and measure.

- Children have safe places to learn, play and belong.
- Teenagers can build confidence, skills and portfolios.
- Students and apprentices can connect education to paid work.
- Early-career adults can find housing, mobility and opportunity without immediately leaving Toronto.
- Young families can imagine a stable future in the city.

Visualizing the Strategy

Selected campaign visuals from the earlier reference reports are retained here because they explain relationships that are harder to understand in prose alone. They are explanatory illustrations; the surrounding text and tables define commitments, costs, authority and status.



Project Six connects homes, mobility, clean city, jobs, human-centred AI and global leadership around the future young people will inherit.



Young Toronto needs multiple routes to adulthood: learning, technology, health care, skilled trades and creative/professional work.

Strategic Priorities

Young Toronto is organized around real transitions - childhood, adolescence, education, apprenticeship, early work and family formation - rather than treating everyone under 30 as one group.

AI-driven change can affect young people first by narrowing junior roles and traditional learning-by-doing pathways. Report 17 therefore tracks entry-level hiring and connects Project Six, paid placements, apprenticeships and employer partnerships to a broader AI worker-transition strategy.

1. Project Six paid civic missions

Young people need opportunities to do meaningful work before they are expected to have years of experience. Project Six would offer paid civic missions in areas such as climate, housing, culture, AI, accessibility, public space and neighbourhood improvement, with real deliverables and mentors.

Cohorts would be designed for different life stages and would produce portfolios, references or recognized experience. The program should complement, not replace, existing youth employment and apprenticeship programs.

2. Compute Commons youth access

For students and young creators, access to advanced AI tools increasingly depends on hardware and compute that many families cannot afford. Youth access within Compute Commons would provide bounded, supervised pathways through libraries, community institutions, schools and partner programs.

Access would include digital literacy, safety and responsible-use education so the program expands capability rather than simply distributing technology.

3. Robotics/trades and creative pathways

Toronto should make it easier for teenagers, apprentices and early-career adults to encounter both skilled trades and emerging creative/technical fields through hands-on learning. Shared labs, demonstrations and employer partnerships can connect construction, robotics, film, design, games and digital production.

The objective is exposure followed by a real next step - course, apprenticeship, paid placement, portfolio or job - rather than one-off demonstrations.

4. City youth job redesign around portfolios/mentors

City youth employment should help participants build evidence of capability. Roles would be redesigned where possible around mentors, project outputs and portfolio-quality work while maintaining fair hiring and appropriate supervision.

Departments would report completion and progression outcomes, not only the number of seasonal positions filled.

5. Student mental-health navigation and right response

Young people often move between school, family, community and health systems that do not share a common front door. Toronto can improve municipal navigation, crisis routing and community supports while respecting provincial responsibility for clinical care and education.

Report 16 defines the broader mental-health pathway; this report focuses on age-appropriate access, caregiver information, privacy, belonging and early support.

6. Housing/transit coordination for students/early career

Students and early-career workers are especially exposed to high rent and long commutes. Housing policy, transit fares, late-night service and regional connectivity should therefore be considered together when assessing whether Toronto remains a viable place to study and begin a career.

The City cannot solve household affordability through transit alone, but better mobility can expand the range of reachable schools, jobs and homes while the housing strategy increases supply.

7. Safe Passage privacy-first pilot and standards work

Safe Passage for young people combines safer street design, crossings, lighting, active public spaces and carefully bounded technology where evidence supports it. Child safety should not be used to normalize pervasive surveillance.

Any technology pilot would require privacy review, clear purpose limits and public evaluation; environmental and operational safety improvements come first.

8. Arts/recreation/apprenticeship belonging infrastructure

Belonging is infrastructure for young people. Affordable recreation, arts spaces, libraries, mentorship, apprenticeships and community programs create relationships and routines that support health, learning and confidence.

Investment should be targeted using participation, access and neighbourhood need, with attention to disability, cost, travel time and hours that work for school and employment schedules.

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Targets, Scenarios and Planning Assumptions

Planning Assumptions and Key Calculations

Show the arithmetic and its limitations so optimistic assumptions cannot quietly become promises. Calculation register Calculation / model Method / interpretation Youth unemployment gap $16.8\% - 9.8\% = 7.0$ percentage points above April 2019. [YOUTH1] City pathway leverage If even 10% of the >16,000 annual City youth jobs were redesigned as structured AI/robotics/climate/creative portfolio pathways, ~1,600 paid placements/year could carry explicit skill evidence without creating 1,600 wholly new jobs. Portfolio capacity A \$60M cumulative operating envelope over four years averages \$15M/year before ramping; actual annual authorizations should be staged to placements that are funded and supervised, not simply divided equally. Planning arithmetic is used as decision support. Where official forecasts or project-specific engineering supersede a campaign screening calculation, the official or engineered value governs.

Implementation and Delivery

First 100 Days

The opening 100 days map the transition points where young people lose access to opportunity, then launch paid civic missions, navigation improvements and practical pathways that can begin quickly.

- Publish a life-stage youth opportunity map across City programs and partner pathways.
- Select first Project Six missions and paid participant cohorts.
- Create a youth pathway table linking recreation, arts, trades, AI, entrepreneurship and employment.
- Identify barriers to youth access in libraries, community centres and public programs.
- Coordinate youth mental-health navigation with 211/TCCS and appropriate health/education partners.

2027-2030 First-Term Action Plan

During 2027-2030, young people gain more paid experience, safer and more affordable access to the city, stronger creative/trades/AI pathways and clearer mental-health and support navigation.

Phase	Action	Lead / authority	Resident result
Mission	Project Six paid civic learning	City / institutions / employers	Young people build real portfolios and civic confidence.
Pathways	Trades, AI, creative and entrepreneurship routes	City / schools / colleges / employers	More routes from interest to paid experience.
Belonging	Recreation, arts, libraries and community space	Parks / Library / community partners	Young people have places to participate outside school/work.
Transition	Student and early-career housing/mobility navigation	City / institutions	Fewer avoidable barriers at key life transitions.
Support	Youth and family mental-health	City / health / education	Help is easier to find and better

Phase	Action	Lead / authority	Resident result
	navigation	partners	connected.

2031-2051 Long-Term Direction

The 2051 direction is a Toronto where children and young adults can imagine a future in the city because housing, mobility, learning, work, culture, safety and belonging remain within reach.

- Build a city where each generation can acquire capability, work, housing and community without being pushed out by cost.
- Connect civic learning to the city's long-term construction, climate, culture and technology missions.
- Maintain strong child privacy and developmental safeguards as digital tools become more capable.

Risks and dependencies

Risk	Specific mitigation
Programs favour already-connected youth	Use open recruitment, neighbourhood outreach, accessibility and paid participation.
Technology pathways crowd out other talents	Maintain equal routes into trades, arts, care, entrepreneurship and civic work.
Youth participation becomes symbolic	Give missions real owners, deliverables, mentors and published outcomes.
Mental-health needs exceed municipal role	Use navigation and community supports while maintaining clear provincial clinical responsibilities.

Review and renewal

Youth programs will be reviewed with young participants and delivery partners, paying particular attention to who is excluded, what happens after participation and whether pathways lead somewhere real.

Accountability and Public Reporting

Performance framework

Young Toronto reporting will distinguish children, teens, students, apprentices, early-career adults and young families, using measures of participation, paid progression, travel/housing access, belonging and support navigation.

Metric	Baseline	Target / direction	Horizon	Responsible body	Reporting
Paid Project Six placements/missions	0 under new program	Increase based on evaluated capacity	First term	City / partners	Annual
Youth participation by neighbourhood and accessibility need	Establish baseline	Broaden participation	First term	Program owners	Annual

Metric	Baseline	Target / direction	Horizon	Responsible body	Reporting
Work-integrated transitions to paid work/training	Establish baseline	Increase	First term	Economic Development / partners	Annual
Youth access to recreation/library/community programs	Existing program data	Improve participation and access	First term	Parks / Library	Annual

Sources and Notes

Primary public sources are listed by organization and title. Campaign commitments, targets, scenarios and long-range aspirations are distinguished from adopted government policy throughout the report.

- [City of Toronto - Youth Equity Strategy](#)
- [City of Toronto - HousingTO](#)