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NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

February 10, 2026

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree
The Minister of Public Safety
Member of Parliament, Scarborough–Guildwood

Subject: Urgent Request for Continued Federal Funding for TO Wards Peace Scarborough and the Family Well-Being Program

Dear Minister Anandasangaree,

I am writing to urgently request your support in ensuring the continuation of federal funding for two critical community safety and youth-support programs in Scarborough: TOwards Peace Scarborough and the Family Well-Being Scarborough Program, both of which are set to lose all federal support on March 31, 2026.

These programs have become essential pillars in Scarborough's violence-prevention and family-support infrastructure. The City has received confirmation from staff that the expiration of the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) and the Crime Prevention Action Fund (CPAF) will result in a combined loss of \$6.162 million to the 2025 operating budget, with no viable internal pathways to fully sustain these programs beyond March 31.

While the City is absorbing six positions into its base budget and has \$0.617 million in remaining federal dollars to support operations through March, we still face a shortfall of \$2.412 million required to maintain both Scarborough programs through the end of 2026.

If federal funding is not renewed, Scarborough will see the immediate loss of:

TOwards Peace Scarborough:

- 10 staff positions across three community agencies
- Intensive case management support for 43 youth and their families
- 52 annual violence-disruption interventions, which directly prevented harm, victimization, and potential homicides—80% involving cohort youth
- Community engagement reaching over 500 youth and 105 families

Family Well-Being Scarborough:

- 14 staff across seven organizations
- One-on-one and group supports for 2,244 families served since 2023
- Essential culturally responsive navigation, workshops, and family-strengthening supports that help youth avoid involvement in violence and crime.

These programs were developed with Scarborough residents, parents, educators, grassroots groups, and agencies, and they address the root causes of violence through trauma-informed, community-led models. They cannot be absorbed into existing City programming without losing their effectiveness.

These federal investments have helped rebuild Scarborough's capacity for violence prevention after earlier program losses. Both TO Wards Peace and Family Well-Being are demonstrating strong and measurable results, and early indicators show that sustained federal involvement is essential to preserve the progress made in reducing youth violence across the city.

Community partners have already written to your office expressing deep concern for the future of these programs. Many frontline staff leading this work are themselves Scarborough residents with lived experience, now serving as stabilizing leaders in their own neighbourhoods. Losing these positions would not only dismantle program capacity but jeopardize personal safety and community trust built over years.

Given the looming deadline and the inability of municipal or provincial partners to fill this gap alone, I respectfully request your support to:

1. Secure an immediate extension or renewal of the Building Safer Communities Fund, or
2. Provide replacement federal funding to maintain both programs.

This support is crucial to prevent service disruption, layoffs, and the erosion of violence-prevention infrastructure that has already proven its effectiveness and necessity in Scarborough communities.

Minister, these programs save lives, stabilize families, create employment opportunities for local residents, and help prevent cycles of violence from taking root. Without renewed federal investment, Scarborough stands to lose critical supports at a time when families and youth need them most.

I look forward to working with you to ensure these essential programs continue beyond March 31, 2026.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Paul W. Ainslie
Deputy Mayor, City of Toronto, Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood