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YWCA Toronto's Statement on the 2022 Municipal Election Results

On October 24, residents of Toronto elected a Mayor and City Council to represent them for the next four years. Mayor John Tory was re-elected along with 17 councillors. The council welcomes nine new voices to the table, a significant number of new councillors, including the council's first hijab-wearing Muslim woman and six new racialized councillors. A more diverse council better represents the diversity of the city. The new council will officially take office in about a month.

The unofficial estimate that less than 30% of eligible voters cast a ballot in this municipal election, the lowest turnout in the city's history, signals an urgency for more leadership in civic engagement. Low voter turnout means a council that represents a much narrower segment of the population.

This election presented an opportunity for all candidates to commit to prioritizing gender equity. Throughout our [campaign for an equitable Toronto](#), several candidates responded to our calls to action around housing and shelter, decent work and decent pay, community safety, community wellness and public services, several committing to taking action.

The new city council leaders will face many post-pandemic challenges. As Toronto continues to become less and less affordable and systemic inequities along racial, gender and neighbourhood lines continue to worsen, we know there is much work ahead to build an equitable Toronto. YWCA Toronto's focus, as the city's largest multi-service organization, is to continue to provide direct services to women, girls and gender diverse people and to tackle systemic issues that perpetuate poverty, violence and oppression. However, we cannot do it alone; we look to City Council for their leadership and support in addressing issues of gender equity. We need a city hall that will champion the needs of residents across the city, especially Indigenous, racialized, newcomer, senior, 2SLGBTQ+ people and people living with disabilities.

MEDIA

Sami Pritchard

Manager of Advocacy, YWCA Toronto

Telephone: 647 237 7283

Email: sritchard@ywcatoronto.org