

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

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137 WELLINGTON ST. WEST



TELEPHONE ELGIN 1904

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The 1931 Budget of Current Revenues and Expenditures for the City of Toronto

Story No. 2

The net estimated current revenue from which appropriations could be made in 1931 is \$36,343,227. (P. 14, Estimates.)

The gross estimated amount for which current appropriations could be made, including reserves for deferred expenditures, payments from the Province and County, provincial, educational subventions and various surpluses and credits, and the water-works surplus, is \$37,486,425.

This is the total used in the analysis within and is the gross sum available for appropriations to meet general and departmental expenditures and special service deficits. It represents expenditures on general current account, per person, of \$59.50, or per family of five of \$297.50. The corresponding figures last year were \$56.64 and \$283.20. If the ratepayers' share of local improvements were included, the amount would be \$40,339,918, or a current expenditure per person of \$64.03 and per family of five of \$320.15.

**Comparison of Estimated Current Expenditures Out of Taxation and General Revenue
Other Than Taxation for the Years 1931, 1930, 1929, 1928 and 1927.**

COMMUNITY SERVICES	TOTAL					PER CAPITA					PER CENT OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE	
	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1931	1927
General Government.....	\$ 4,505,868	\$ 3,601,234	\$ 3,278,693	\$ 3,125,614	\$ 3,329,429	\$7.15	\$5.79	\$5.41	\$5.34	\$5.84	12.02%	11.1%
Protection of Persons and Property.....	6,016,129	6,218,191	6,200,329	6,647,647	5,280,451	9.55	10.00	10.22	9.64	9.27	16.05%	17.5%
Health and Sanitation	4,229,809	4,011,583	3,843,289	3,709,882	3,615,090	6.71	6.45	6.34	6.34	6.34	11.28%	12.0%
Highways	3,631,504	3,530,684	3,103,222	3,070,747	2,803,650	5.76	5.68	5.12	5.24	4.92	9.69%	9.3%
Education	12,491,296	11,865,987	11,149,016	10,541,979	10,102,836	19.83	19.09	18.39	18.00	17.73	33.32%	33.5%
Recreation.....	2,020,748	1,923,013	1,924,538	1,861,081	1,798,374	3.21	3.10	3.17	3.18	3.15	5.39%	6.0%
Charities and Correction	2,890,183	2,442,814	2,123,100	1,846,460	1,737,057	4.59	3.93	3.50	3.15	3.05	7.71%	5.8%
Special Services	1,662,838	1,577,321	1,346,140	1,529,577	1,426,463	2.64	2.54	2.22	2.61	2.50	4.44%	4.7%
Special Grants.....	38,050	35,950	40,750	30,353	33,575	.06	.06	.07	.05	.06	.10%	.1%
Totals.....	\$37,486,425	\$35,206,777	\$33,009,077	\$31,363,450	\$30,126,925	\$59.50	\$56.64	\$54.44	\$53.55	\$52.86	100%	100%

On an estimated population of 630,000.

COMMENT AND QUERY.

1. The outstanding increases over the estimates of 1930 are in General Government, Education and Charities and Correction. The apparent decrease in protection of persons and property does not represent a decrease in ordinary current expenditures, but in the expenditures of a capital nature made out of current revenue.
2. The increase in total estimated current expenditure is almost 6½ per cent. and on the per capita or per family basis is over 5 per cent—in a year when the incomes of many taxpayers are seriously diminished.
3. It does not seem consistent or even intelligent for Toronto to keep on increasing its tax burden, thus lessening the possible power of its business and industry in competition, while spending money to induce industries and businesses to locate here.
4. How much longer will the city be satisfied with its top-heavy and outworn policy deciding organization, with 29, soon to be 31, members of Council, elected in 8, soon to be 9, wards

with unequal population, for one-year terms, with a Board of Control and standing Committees?

5. A City Council of 17 members, 12 elected from four wards for three-year overlapping terms, 4 elected at large for two-year overlapping terms, and a Mayor elected annually, would cost less. Would it be apt to give as good or better service? If so, why spend money which brings no discoverable results? (An even smaller number might be considered.)
6. Did an increase in salaries of Aldermen and Controllers result in an equivalent increase in the value of the service rendered?
7. "The city (in 1892) was represented by thirty-nine Aldermen, three from each of the thirteen wards. The reduction in the number of wards, however, which was an important part of the changes made in that year, has helped much toward weakening the influence of 'ward politicians' and has largely checkered the personal canvass of obscure candidates." (Wickett, 1907.) Are we going to make "back tracks", or are we going to proceed further on the way toward simplicity of organization and citizen control of the citizens' business?

The Toronto Bureau of Municipal Research is an independent, non-partisan citizen organization, for the promotion of informed citizenship and, through it, of efficient municipal government.

Its methods are:

1. The ascertaining of the facts regarding municipal government.
2. The study and analysis of these facts.
3. The publication of these facts in clear, concise form, with constructive suggestions based on the facts.