

BUREAU OF MUNICIPAL RESEARCH

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

137 WELLINGTON ST. W.
TELEPHONE EL. 1904



TORONTO
CANADA

White Paper No. 241

June 20, 1939

City of Toronto

1939 BUDGET STORY No. 3

The total appropriations for 1939, made from tax revenue, other general revenue, governmental subventions, educational grants, etc. was

\$36,525,617

This total exceeds the costs properly chargeable to 1939 by

\$1,181,538

or about 1.32 mills on the general assessment.

Tax levies cannot permanently be reduced by postponing payment of costs, but only by cutting costs. To what extent the one-year term for aldermen is responsible for the adoption of temporary devices which seem to reduce costs without actually doing so, cannot be estimated.

Estimated Current Expenditures for the Years 1929-1939 (both inclusive) Analyzed by Cost of Main Functions to be Met out of Taxation, Revenue other than Taxation, and in 1933 to 1939 inclusive of the Actual or Estimated Proceeds of Debentures Issued to Meet the Net Cost of Direct Unemployment Relief

| COMMUNITY SERVICES BY MAIN FUNCTIONS | TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | PER CAPITA* | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 | 1935 | 1934 | 1933 | 1932 | 1931 | 1930 | 1929 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 | 1935 | 1934 | 1933 | 1932 | 1931 | 1930 | 1929 |
| General Government..... | \$ 4,244,626 | \$ 4,454,210 | \$ 4,377,636 | \$ 4,523,198 | \$ 4,535,174 | \$ 4,940,483 | \$ 4,800,260 | \$ 4,156,319 | \$ 4,543,338 | \$ 3,637,223 | \$ 3,322,450 | \$ 6.55 | \$ 6.88 | \$ 6.75 | \$ 7.01 | \$ 7.11 | \$ 7.85 | \$ 7.70 | \$ 6.63 | \$ 7.24 | \$ 5.85 | \$ 5.48 |
| Protection of Persons and Property..... | 4,997,764 | 5,016,355 | 5,773,381 | 5,659,197 | 5,752,584 | 5,753,640 | 5,730,269 | 6,152,768 | 6,016,129 | 6,218,191 | 6,200,329 | 7.71 | 7.74 | 8.91 | 8.77 | 9.01 | 9.14 | 9.19 | 9.82 | 9.59 | 10.00 | 10.22 |
| Health and Sanitation..... | 3,728,294 | 3,841,841 | 3,911,038 | 3,925,144 | 3,924,359 | 3,898,599 | 3,773,605 | 4,240,838 | 4,229,809 | 4,011,583 | 3,843,289 | 5.75 | 5.93 | 6.03 | 6.08 | 6.15 | 6.20 | 6.05 | 6.77 | 6.74 | 6.45 | 6.34 |
| Highways..... | 2,536,888 | 2,527,861 | 2,533,904 | 2,429,685 | 2,404,625 | 2,390,878 | 2,497,217 | 3,094,780 | 3,631,504 | 3,530,684 | 3,103,222 | 3.92 | 3.90 | 3.91 | 3.76 | 3.77 | 3.80 | 4.00 | 4.94 | 5.79 | 5.68 | 5.12 |
| Education†..... | 12,786,453 | 12,816,847 | 12,760,809 | 12,202,669 | 12,391,099 | 12,525,388 | 12,316,402 | 12,513,049 | 12,491,296 | 11,865,987 | 11,149,016 | 19.73 | 19.79 | 19.68 | 18.91 | 19.42 | 19.90 | 19.75 | 19.96 | 19.92 | 19.09 | 18.39 |
| Recreation..... | 1,518,770 | 1,576,604 | 1,665,246 | 1,547,659 | 1,576,106 | 1,556,567 | 1,576,220 | 1,918,150 | 2,020,748 | 1,923,013 | 1,924,538 | 2.34 | 2.43 | 2.57 | 2.40 | 2.47 | 2.47 | 2.53 | 3.06 | 3.22 | 3.10 | 3.17 |
| Welfare, Charities and Correction..... | 4,224,103 | 4,838,523 | 5,176,436 | 6,150,568 | 6,245,275 | 5,653,869 | 4,994,243 | 2,730,662 | 2,890,183 | 2,442,814 | 2,123,100 | 6.52 | 7.47 | 7.98 | 9.53 | 9.78 | 8.99 | 8.02 | 4.36 | 4.61 | 3.93 | 3.50 |
| To be met out of Revenue (less D.C. on Unemployment Relief Debentures)..... | 2,824,103 | 2,948,523 | 3,383,936 | 3,809,208 | 2,985,275 | 2,803,974 | 2,593,452 | 2,730,662 | 2,890,183 | 2,442,814 | 2,123,100 | 4.36 | 4.55 | 5.22 | 5.90 | 4.67 | 4.46 | 4.17 | 4.36 | 4.61 | 3.93 | 3.50 |
| To be met out of proceeds of Debenture Issues..... | 1,400,000 | 1,890,000 | 1,792,500 | 2,341,360 | 3,260,000 | 2,849,895 | 2,400,791 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 2.16 | 2.92 | 2.76 | 3.63 | 5.11 | 4.53 | 3.85 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Special Grants..... | 53,585 | 66,029 | 62,879 | 61,379 | 71,481 | 64,900 | 31,968 | 36,750 | 38,050 | 35,950 | 40,750 | .08 | .10 | .10 | .09 | .10 | .10 | .05 | .06 | .06 | .06 | .07 |
| Combined Deficits on Public Utilities and Special Services..... | 1,253,596 | 1,302,748 | 1,408,745 | 1,633,191 | 1,723,549 | 1,742,958 | 1,916,739 | 1,848,998 | 1,625,368 | 1,541,332 | 1,302,383 | 1.94 | 2.01 | 2.17 | 2.53 | 2.70 | 2.77 | 3.07 | 2.95 | 2.59 | 2.48 | 2.15 |
| General Deficit brought forward from previous year..... | (Surplus)† | (Surplus)† | (Surplus)† | (Surplus)† | 126,272 | 186,634 | 1,258,328 | 880,288 | (Surplus) | (Surplus) | (Surplus) | (Surp.) | (Surp.) | (Surp.) | (Surp.) | .20 | .30 | 2.02 | 1.40 | (Surp.) | (Surp.) | (Surp.) |
| Total Expenditure (not including debt charges on unemployment relief debentures 1933-1939 inclusive)..... | \$35,344,079 | \$36,441,018 | \$37,670,074 | \$38,132,690 | \$38,750,524 | \$38,713,916 | \$38,895,251 | \$37,572,602 | \$37,486,425 | \$35,206,777 | \$33,009,077 | \$54.54 | \$56.25 | \$58.10 | \$59.08 | \$60.71 | \$61.52 | \$62.38 | \$59.95 | \$59.76 | \$56.64 | \$54.44 |
| Less to be met out of proceeds of sales of debentures..... | 1,400,000 | 1,890,000 | 1,792,500 | 2,341,360 | 3,260,000 | 2,849,895 | 2,400,791 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 2.16 | 2.92 | 2.76 | 3.63 | 5.11 | 4.53 | 3.85 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Plus current debt charges on unemployment relief debentures..... | 2,581,538 | 2,495,182 | 2,011,505 | 1,440,324 | 1,017,124 | 320,266 | 12,239 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | 3.98 | 3.85 | 3.10 | 2.23 | 1.60 | .51 | .02 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Total Current Expenditure to be met out of current funds..... | \$36,525,617 | \$37,046,200 | \$37,889,079 | \$37,231,654 | \$36,507,648 | \$36,184,287 | \$36,506,699 | \$37,572,602 | \$37,486,425 | \$35,206,777 | \$33,009,077 | \$56.36 | \$57.18 | \$58.44 | \$57.68 | \$57.20 | \$57.50 | \$58.55 | \$59.95 | \$59.76 | \$56.64 | \$54.44 |
| Population (actual)..... | 648,000* | 647,803 | 648,309 | 645,462 | 638,271 | 629,285 | 623,562 | 626,674 | 627,231 | 621,596 | 606,370 | | | | | | | | | | | |

COMMENT

The reduction in estimated cost of 1939 current services is over a million dollars, every main function of local government, except highways, listed above showing a reduction. The current appropriations, however, which include carrying charges on relief debt of previous years, are only half a million dollars less than those of 1938.

Thirty-six and a half million dollars is a lot of money for 650,000 people to spend on civic services. Under present conditions it is impossible for individuals, unaided, to devote the time necessary to keep in touch with the good and bad tendencies of city finance.

For twenty-five years the Bureau of Municipal Research, as an independent citizen organization, has presented and interpreted the facts.

†Current expenditures out of revenue from all sources, as with all main functions. Includes Public Schools, Separate Schools, Collegiate Institutes, Public Library, etc.

‡After borrowing over 2 million dollars for current expenditures on relief in 1936, \$1,792,500 in 1937, \$1,590,000 in 1938, and \$1,400,000 in 1939.

*The 1939 population is the City's Estimate, and 1939 per capita are based thereon. In all other years the per capita are based on the actual populations.

yRelief debt charges of \$12,239 were included in the City expenditures for 1933.

D.C.—Debt Charges.

zWhite Paper No. 199 used the \$2,000,000 Estimated Unemployment Relief total mentioned in the introduction to the 1934 Estimates, but not included in the Estimates proper. In order that one year might be comparable with the others, the approximate actual figures given in the 1935 Estimates were used in the White papers 206, 215 and 235 and in this Paper.

CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS

1. That two or three year "staggered" terms be substituted for the present one-year term of members of city council and elected boards. This would—
 - a. Promote planning in periods longer than one year.
 - b. Make it more worth-while for candidates with a desire for real public service to offer their services by cutting down election expenses and freeing a greater proportion of the term for actual service.
 - c. Tend to increase independence of judgment.
 - d. Make possible to the electors an annual expression of opinion on public affairs which would "register" not only on those whose term has expired, but on those still serving.
 - e. Make it easier to prepare the draft current budget for the year in December of the preceding year. This would make it possible for annual elections to turn on concrete proposals and not on general promises of economy.
2. That the number of wards be reduced and that the majority of members of elective bodies be elected at large. This would tend to promote civic patriotism as against locality interest.
3. That council order a detailed survey of civic administration and expenditure by an independent "outside" body.
4. That a permanent city planning commission be established with the duty of advising the city on
 - street planning
 - zoning
 - housingand preparing a city plan for the action of Council.

If the City is to go ahead as it should, and at the same time conserve its resources, it must make planning possible and effective.

The Bureau of Municipal Research is an independent, non-partisan agency, carried on in the interests of all taxpayers and citizens by the voluntary contributions of some citizens. Naturally it receives, and can receive, no support from governmental or municipal sources. It ascertains facts as to municipal government, analyzes these facts, and presents the results to the general public, along with constructive suggestions based on the facts. It backs no candidates, recommends no one for civic appointment, and has no axe to grind other than that of those who use and directly or indirectly pay for the cost of municipal services.