

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

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CANADA

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TORONTO'S CITY BUDGET FOR 1947

Not including the public utilities which are financed out of their own revenues, local government in Toronto costs almost \$45,000,000 which is \$70.80 for each inhabitant, man, woman or child, or over \$295 per average family.

The statement below shows where this money comes from:

Taxes on real estate, business.....	\$34,775,643	
Supplementary revenue from taxation.....	275,000	
Provincial Educational Grants.....	3,458,626	
Provincial One Mill Grants.....	891,693	
Provincial Welfare Payments.....	667,327	
General Revenues—		
City.....	\$2,968,169	
Educational.....	304,321	
		3,272,490
Surpluses.....		1,291,825
Revenue from Local Improvement—Taxpayers' Share (net).....		236,904
Total Revenue.....		\$44,869,508

Even in this era of astronomical figures, \$45,000,000 is a lot of money. What services does it buy and how are the costs made up?

A critical examination of the 1947 budget, is an indispensable preparation for a consideration of the 1948 budget which should be an issue in the 1948 elections.

CITY OF TORONTO
Estimated Current Expenditures for 1947 out of
Taxation, Grants, Surpluses and Other General Revenues

	Personal Services	Other Expense	DEBT SERVICES			Capital Outlays	Total	Per Capita Total	% of Total
			Interest	Debt Retirement	Total Debt Charges				
Total General Government	\$ 2,647,524	\$ 2,551,715	\$ 330,797	\$ 1,150,891	\$ 1,481,688*		\$ 6,680,927	\$ 9.47	15.0%
Total Protection of Persons and Property	5,623,438	1,057,460	37,075	50,314	87,389		6,768,287	9.60	15.1%
Police	2,896,288	421,479	10,685	14,173	24,858		3,342,625	4.74	7.5%
Fire	2,219,566	365,551	10,100	29,870	39,970		2,616,087	3.71	5.8%
Other	507,584	279,430	16,290	6,271	22,561		809,575	1.15	1.8%
Total Health and Sanitation	4,381,054	602,033	379,413	584,899	964,312		5,937,399	8.42	13.2%
Health	1,186,366	199,818	7,452	41,000	48,452		1,434,636	2.03	3.2%
Sanitation	3,184,688	402,215	371,961	543,899	915,860		4,502,762	6.39	10.0%
Total Education	11,168,907	3,114,499	521,056	1,060,752	1,581,808		15,865,214	22.50	35.3%
Total Highways	400,232	1,123,383	321,923	710,284	1,032,207		2,555,822	3.63	5.7%
Total Welfare	381,162	3,775,966	64,041	211,284	275,325		4,432,453	6.29	9.9%
Total Recreation	1,198,412	461,149	142,490	196,855	339,346		1,998,907	2.84	4.4%
Special Grants		45,750					45,750	.06	.1%
Deficits on Special Services		584,749					584,749	.83	1.3%
Total Estimated Expenditures	\$25,790,729	\$13,316,704	\$ 1,796,795	\$ 3,965,280	\$ 5,762,075		\$44,869,508	\$63.64	100.0%
Per Capita	36.58	18.89			8.17		63.64		
% of Total	57.5	29.7			12.8		100.0		

Population Estimated—705,000.

*Includes Local Improvements Ratepayers' share \$236,904 (net) which amount accounts for difference in total expenditures between this and earlier analysis of Estimates of 1947.

COMMENTS

1. Salaries, wages and other payments for personal services have now reached a total of \$25,790,729, compared with \$18,978,635 in 1938. This represents an expenditure per inhabitant of \$36.58 compared with a per capita of \$29.30 in 1938. Of the \$25,790,729 the Board of Education and Separate School Board were to spend \$10,688,091. The expenditure on personal services, not including the water works and civic abattoir, is 57.5% of the total expenditure. In 1938, the last complete year before the outbreak of the war, the cost of civic personal services was 48.9% of the total, including the ratepayers' share of local improvements (net). During the period 1938-1947 personal services increased almost 36.0%, and the population requiring civic services 8.8%.
2. The cost of servicing the debt in 1938 was \$9,900,240. Including the ratepayers' share of local improvements (net) it was \$11,657,295. In 1947 the estimate provided \$5,762,075, including the ratepayers' share of local improvements (net), a decrease of 50.6%.

QUERY

Even if a long term plan of capital expenditures designed not to increase debt charges over the present level is rigidly followed, which will prevent the growth of the tax rate, granted that the assessed valuation is not increased?

The Bureau of Municipal Research of Toronto offers an opportunity for any public-minded citizen to co-operate with others of like mind in developing informed and active local citizenship. For over thirty-three years it has maintained a continuous and effective vigil covering every department of the municipal field, giving informed, critical and non-partisan guidance chiefly through its bulletins and monthly letters.