



FROM YOUR CITY COUNCILLOR

COMMUNITY NEWS LETTER

WARD 18, WILLOWDALE

LILY CHENG 陳伶俐 李莉

@LilyChengTO

 lilycheng.ca

 416-392-0210

 councillor_cheng@toronto.ca

Dear Neighbour,

November 15 marks one year since I officially entered Toronto City Hall. It has been a beautiful, challenging, exciting and often daunting whirlwind. I still remember that first day, getting keys to my office, sitting down with my newly hired team and mapping out our journey together as best we could. We started with no digital infrastructure or knowledge of work in progress. Luckily, I enjoy a good challenge and the team that joined me has proven to be a great mix of intelligence, dedication and grit! Here are some questions I am often asked:

Was it everything you thought it would be? My highest goal has always been to empower residents of Willowdale to participate in an accessible democracy towards building a better community. The surprise challenge has been the amount of time spent serving on boards and committees that impact the entire city, due in part to the faith in me shown by both the current and previous mayors who have placed me on numerous committees. I am always juggling citywide responsibilities with my commitment to our community.

Is it fun? Yes! Watching the community come together in beautiful ways such as Avondale movie night, dancing with the the Iranian community and our first night market. Although most days are filled with many meetings and challenges, it is gratifying to try to piece together a complex puzzle to solve problems and effect positive change.

What is the hardest part of the job? Accepting the slow pace of change is high up on the list; but the hardest part is fighting for time to spend with my family. Being a mom with school-aged children grounds me and allows me to represent a voice not often heard at decision-making tables; but this role is definitely a family sacrifice.

Highlights of Year 1

- Building an incredible multilingual staff team, supportive friendships with fellow councillors, community celebrations at Mel Lastman Square, two Willowdale Climate Action Roundtables and a strong Cummer Station campaign.
- Finding a location for a warming centre that allowed Mitchell Field to resume operations as a community centre. Thank you Willowdale Baptist Church!
- Making a difference in how search warrants will be executed (see Oct. 20 e-blast).

Goals for Year 2

- Continue advocating for Cummer Station, Doris Extension, ReImagine Yonge Consultation and Dog Off Leash Areas.
- Continue newly launched community events and initiatives.
- Launch Resident Engagement Portal for greater participation in decision-making.
- Bring greater transparency and participation in the City's budgeting process.
- Create pathways for new neighbourhood associations and Neighbourhood Watch.

I hope you will join me in shaping our community by subscribing to my weekly email newsletter at www.lilycheng.ca. It's an ongoing invitation to get involved!

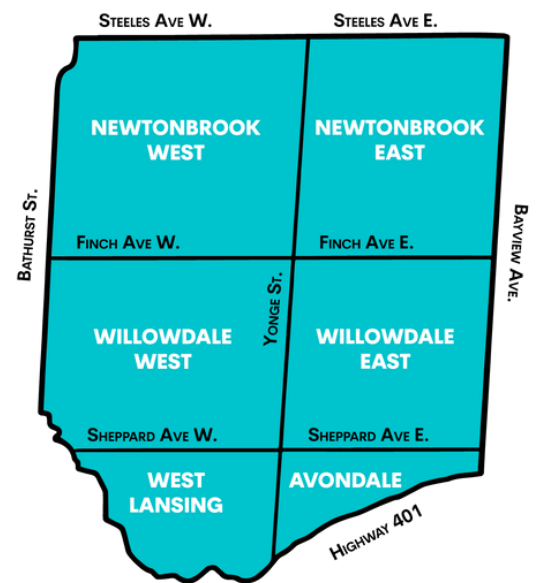
Wishing you and your loved ones a joy filled holiday season!

Sincerely,

陳伶俐 李莉

Lily Cheng
 City Councillor • Ward 18, Willowdale

LET'S CONNECT



*This is not an official designation. These have been created by Councillor Cheng's office to best communicate areas of our neighbourhood based on a hybrid of city, real estate and police maps.

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

North York Civic Centre
 5100 Yonge St.
 North York, ON M2N 5V7



Do you need help with ...

- Water
- Property Taxes
- Housing
- Police
- Road Safety
- Garbage
- Transit
- Parks & Rec

We provide multi-lingual assistance

我们提供国语和广东话服务

저희는 다국어 지원을 제공합니다

خدمات این دفتر به زبان فارسی نیز ارائه میشود.

SIGN UP FOR MY WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER!*

Receive regular updates on local projects, consultations, community events, the latest from City Hall and ways to get involved!



www.lilycheng.ca



*Due to cost, we can only mail out updates twice a year. Our email newsletter is sent out 3-4 times a month to give you the most up-to-date information on what is happening in our community.

YOUR COUNCILLOR IN ACTION!

IRANIAN CULTURAL DISTRICT

شکل گیری محله فرهنگی ایرانیان
دعوت به تبادل نظر از ایرانیان
در مورد نامگذاری بخشی از خیابان یانگ

To officially recognize the history and contributions of Iranians in shaping the Iranian neighbourhood in Willowdale that is famous in Iran, I moved a motion to recognize the Iranian community through a symbolic naming of a section of Yonge Street, between Cummer Ave. and Steeles Ave. To achieve this, we need to gather your suggestions through an online survey.



Please share a suitable name in one or two words that symbolize and represent our Iranian district! Scan the QR Code or visit this link: <https://bit.ly/405SWpn>

Highlighting the Iranian cultural identity and presence will strengthen local businesses and grow public awareness. In an effort to further support local culture, the City of Toronto is developing an exciting NEW Cultural Districts Program. As a result of my motion, the City is now exploring the feasibility of planning and developing a portion of Yonge Street as the Cultural District for Iranians. Please subscribe to my weekly e-newsletter to receive more information as this program develops.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Toronto Council joined 30 municipalities in declaring gender-based violence and intimate partner violence (IPV) an epidemic at its July 2023 meeting. Council adopted my amendment to add community organizations serving victims of IPV and the Toronto Police Services to the stakeholders collaborating to action this declaration. I am honoured to have been appointed by Mayor Chow to lead the process of creating an IPV Action Plan for Toronto. Currently I am meeting with City staff to review IPV work being done and community organization leaders to identify gaps and how to best support victims and prevent IPV through an Action Plan for Toronto.

YONGE STREET FOOT PATROL

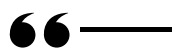
In response to many concerns raised at our Community Safety Townhall along with issues we shared from residents, 32 Division (our local police division) launched a **Yonge Street Foot Patrol** this past summer. The 4-member team that is rotated in pairs actively patrols the area from Beecroft Rd. to Doris Ave., Sheppard Ave. to just north of Finch Ave. They handle crime, disorder, and Vision Zero road safety, working in tandem with emergency response officers. The team has been successful in assisting with arrests on the street following reports as well as managing noise and disturbances in public spaces. Many business owners and residents have expressed gratitude for their presence.

COUNCILLOR CHENG'S MOTIONS

- ✓ Mayor Chow to ask Premier Ford to fully fund the design and construction of Cummer Station.
- ✓ City Manager to examine the City's process improvement activities using business process review tools such as a lean six sigma lens and identify areas that could benefit from further continuous improvement.
- ✓ City staff reviewing the feasibility of creating a community assets dashboard for the purpose of creating community-based data-driven insights to support data-based decision-making.
- ✓ Search warrant procedures will soon require officers to consider children and vulnerable adults who are present during a search.
- ✓ City to pause accessibility renovations at Willowdale Manor to explore all options to preserve well-loved features including the community stage and front sitting lounge area.

COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS

- Civic Appointments Committee, Chair
- North York Community Council, Vice-Chair
- Corporations Nominating Panel, Vice-Chair
- Anti-Racism Advisory Panel (ARAP), Co-chair
- Budget Committee
- General Government Committee
- Toronto Police Services Board
- Toronto Police Service Budget Committee
- Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Service Excellence Committee
- Board of Directors of TO Live
- Yonge North York BIA



We love Willowdale and know you are doing a well worth job of bringing it all back to life now. We thank you Lily, for all you have done and are doing here for our community and love your newsletters. - Willowdale Resident

Finally it is good to see the Parking Patrols are at work for the section of Yonge St south of Finch and north Sheppard at rush hour. Prior to your arrival that almost appears to be no enforcement at all during rush hour. Keep up the good work and glad I supported you. - Willowdale Resident



IN THE COMMUNITY



LANSING MARKET

Congratulations to Lansing United Church and Spaces United on a wonderful Lansing Open Market with a great variety of artists and local businesses.



AVONDALE MOVIE NIGHT

So much fun watching Sing 2 in Avondale Park with the support of CUPE Local 416 and a free Zumba class provided by Star Dance Centre.



ENVIRONMENT DAY

Hosting our second Willowdale Community Environment Day and inaugural Eco Fair, which served over 700 households in the pouring rain!



YONGE NORTH YORK NIGHT MARKET

Thanks to Yonge North York BIA, StreetEats Market and Star Dance Centre for animating our community at our first ever Yonge North York Night Market.



TASTE OF NORTH YORK

Participating in Taste of North York with Mayor Chow, Deputy Mayor Colle, and MP Ehsassi. Thanks to NeighbourLink North York and StreetEats Market for organizing.



WCRA CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Thanks to Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association for hosting the Concerts in the Park Series at Lee Lifeson Art Park every Thursday evening during the months of June and September.



WILLOWDALE TREE GIVEAWAY

Many thanks to community member Ania Gorka for arranging for a wide variety of free trees for Willowdale. She is truly a Community Climate Champion! 300 trees were distributed due to her efforts!



DIWALICIOUS- TASTE OF DIWALI

Celebrating the Festival of Lights-Diwali. Thanks to the Indo-Canada Arts Council for organizing such a vibrant event, highlighting the richness of South Asian culture.



SAFETY TOWNHALL

Thanks to the almost 300 Willowdalers that came out in person or connected virtually to the first Community Safety Townhall hosted by our office, in partnership with 32 Division and Homes First.



RIDE-A-LONG

Thanks to 32 Division for my first "Ride-a-long." So grateful to witness our courageous officers respond to a "gunshots heard" call, which fortunately turned out to be a noisy muffler.



KOREAN FESTIVAL

Celebrating Toronto Korean Festival, hosted by Korean Canadian Business Association, with Mayor Chow, Hyun Joo Chae (President of KCBA), and Consul General Deuk Hwan Kim.



CLIMATE ACTION ROUNDTABLE

Hosting our second Willowdale Climate Action Roundtable, with an inspiring environmental discussion and a celebration of our successes from our first roundtable with climate enthusiast neighbours.

PARK UPDATES



Mitchell Field Community Centre

MITCHELL FIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

After serving the Willowdale community as a COVID-19 vaccine clinic for over 2 years, we were thrilled to reopen Mitchell Field earlier this year. Fall Recreation Programs started October 2, 2023. New programs include: Martial Arts, Line Dancing, Art Classes and Instructional Volleyball.

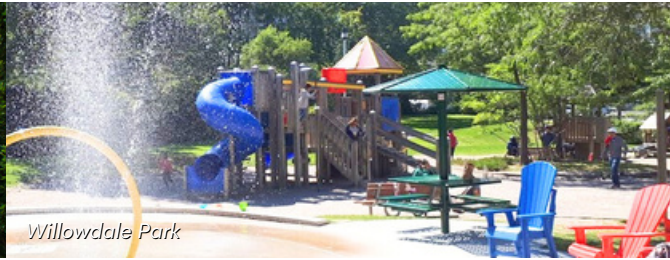
“Community centres are so vital for families with small children. Thank you very much for your advocacy. You are by far the best councillor Willowdale had in a long time. We will always support you!”
- Willowdale Resident



Silverview Park

SILVERVIEW PARK

This park is slated for a re-fresh. We hosted a Brunch Potluck Consultation in partnership with Silverview Neighbourhood Association. Community engagement has been conducted in English, Korean, Farsi, and Chinese to maximize diverse participation. There will be further opportunities to share your input.



Willowdale Park

WILLOWDALE PARK

Willowdale Park is a cherished neighborhood gem, enjoyed by many. We are planning a visionary upgrade as a central park in our community. This can only happen with the participation of those who use the park. While some virtual consultations have taken place in the past, we strongly believe that in-person interaction will yield more engagement and more inclusive results. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to get involved.

CONACHER PARK

The existing basketball court in Conacher Park will be relocated due to Toronto Hydro work on their land. I requested that the court be relocated within the park. Construction is scheduled to commence Spring 2024.

NEWTONBROOK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE

The City is planning to build a new two-storey multi-use community centre as part of the new M2M development at Yonge and Cumber. Since it is a developer-delivered project, the developer has submitted the Site Plan Application for the entire development, including the community centre, and is currently awaiting approval. The construction start is anticipated for 2024.

HOLMES PARK

The community enjoyed a fun grand-opening ceremony with live music and ice cream that served as a launching pad for consultation for the future park expansion that will see the park more than double in size. Many kids lingered on the play equipment thanks to the great design!



Holmes Park



CASWELL PARK PLAYGROUND ENHANCEMENT

This project is a part of an ongoing citywide Playground Enhancement Program (PEP). Community engagement for this project will be completed by Dec 2023 and the playground will reopen by the end of 2024.

PICKLEBALL

Willowdale currently has 3 courts available for use: Moore Park (new for 2023), Wedgewood Park, and Lillian Park. Goulding Park will be added next!



HOUSING

ABANDONED HOUSES

Several residents have contacted us about abandoned homes which can create many challenges for neighbours including squatters starting fires, wild animals in the home as well as unkept property. If you suspect a home has been abandoned, here are the steps to take:

- 1 Work with neighbours to keep an eye on the home. If there are wild animals in the home or property issues call 311. If you see illegal activity or squatters, please call the police non-emergency line at 416-808-2222.
- 2 Report the abandoned home to our office and we will alert city departments to activate an investigation. Please share all Service Request Numbers (SR#) for every complaint you have filed with 311.

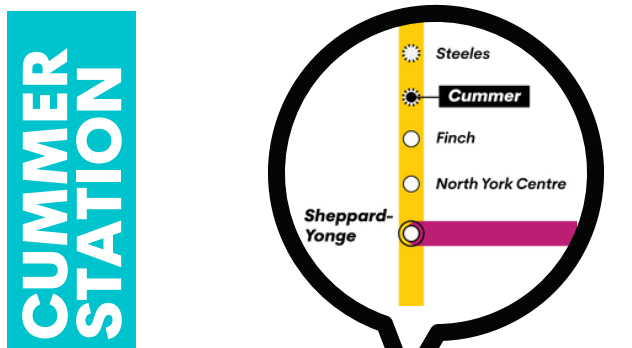
175 CUMMER AVENUE

The Ontario Land Tribunal appeal for 175 Cumber Avenue for the proposed Modular Supportive Housing project happened November 1st to 3rd. At the time of publication of this newsletter we do not know the outcome of the hearing. You can find out from my email newsletter or visit: www.lilycheng.ca

WILLOWDALE WELCOME CENTRE

The centre located at 5800 Yonge St. has transitioned back to being a refugee shelter and is currently hosting 410 refugees in two buildings. Approximately 75% of the residents are actively engaged in either work, education, or both. If you're interested in donating, contributing to the shelter's efforts or volunteering, we encourage you to reach out to **Ryan Evershed** at ryan.evershed@homesfirst.on.ca or **Liz Briceno** at lizmariana.briceno@homesfirst.on.ca.

TRANSIT & INFRASTRUCTURE



CUMMER STATION CAMPAIGN

In my campaign platform, I promised I would fight for Cumber Station. My motion to prepare a business case to be presented by our Mayor to the Premier passed! The voices of our community have been amplified! Advocacy highlights include:

- In an email to CBC Toronto on October 12, 2023 the Ontario Ministry of Transportation said the province is working "collaboratively with the city to explore the possibility of including the additional station located at Cumber Avenue."
- Over 500 letters of advocacy have been received for Cumber Station. It is not too late to add your voice. Use this link to SEND YOUR EMAIL TODAY: www.lilycheng.ca/cummer
- Thank you to all who attended our first **Fight for Cumber Station Rally** October 12th at 8am. We will keep fighting together for the future of our neighbourhood!



BIKE SHARE

Due to advocacy from my office, Bike Share Toronto expedited the installation of a station in the north east corner of Yonge St. and Bishop Ave. Willowdale has also received approval for an e-bike charging station at 19 Glendora Ave. next to an upcoming on-street EV charger. Installation is expected by mid-November. A dozen more Bike Share stations are planned that will contribute greatly to transportation options for Willowdale residents and visitors.



YONGE STREET TRAGEDY (YST) PERMANENT MEMORIAL

Location options are currently being determined. Once a location is set, a design contest will be launched. This will all be done with the participation of a YST Memorial Community Committee.

YONGE-401 RAMP

The Senior Project Manager is working on a joint agreement with MTO (Ministry of Transportation Ontario), with an RFP for Environmental Assessment set to be released by the end of the year.

DORIS EXTENSION

Due to a legal issue, the RFP for preliminary detailed design has been delayed and will be released soon.

REIMAGINE YONGE

The city is hiring a consultant towards engaging more residents to ensure robust participation in the design process. A Stakeholder Advisory Committee is still planned but contingent on the hiring of this consultant.

CITY OF TORONTO WARMING CENTRE

WILLOWDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
15 Olive Ave, North York

NOV 15, 2023 - APR 15, 2024

For more info: www.toronto.ca/homelesshelp

COMING SOON...

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Does your neighbourhood need additional lighting, benches or adult fitness equipment? Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a system of direct democracy where residents suggest and then vote on how City funds are spent within their community. It's a great opportunity for community members to directly shape their neighbourhood. After all, you know best what your corner of Willowdale needs!

Councillors Carroll and Moise have successfully implemented PB in their respective wards. We are grateful for their support as we prepare to launch Willowdale's first PB Campaign with an information session in early 2024. Interested residents will need to sign up for a **Resident Engagement Portal** set to launch before the end of the year. Stay tuned for updates! Make sure you sign up for our email newsletter to participate.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

We will soon be launching a multi segment **Community Survey** in order to better understand our community so I can better represent you! Your participation will directly shape our future. Your voice matters!

YOUTH COUNCIL

We are excited to relaunch **Willowdale Youth Council** next year for all passionate students in high school or post secondary who are looking to make an impact in our community. Willowdale Youth Council will empower you to be a voice to shape our future. Get ready to connect, collaborate, and create a brighter tomorrow. Stay tuned for a Youth Volunteer Training Session in January!

CITY OF TORONTO BUDGET & A NEW DEAL WITH THE PROVINCE

In a recent press conference with Mayor Chow, Premier Ford acknowledged, "Toronto is facing deep financial challenges that are no longer sustainable.... We need governments to work together to deliver solutions that protect services, avoid new taxes and put the city on a path towards long-term financial sustainability. Simply put, Toronto needs a new deal." Our operating shortfall for 2023 was over \$933 million along with a \$9.5 billion state of good repair backlog. While a reserve fund covers the current operational shortfall, Toronto will be forced to significantly decrease spending as this reserve will be depleted unless a new deal is established. It will definitely be challenging as a member of the budget committee and the Toronto Police Service Budget Committee.

BUILDING WILLOWDALE

Over the past year I've attended over 40 meetings with developers to discuss their application proposals and plans. I make every effort to begin meeting with developers early in the application process (within 6 months of the submission of their plans) to maximize opportunities for community benefits as well as to ensure their vision aligns with our neighbourhood. I provide a one-sheet summarizing the major priorities I expect applications to address, including the following **8 core values**:



Architecture that fosters neighbourly connectivity.



Onsite Community Benefits (daycares, affordable housing, and community spaces for community organizations and human services.)



Create or expand parks.



Safe Pick Up/Drop off zone for people and deliveries.



Prioritize Children and Pets (indoor playrooms/outdoor playgrounds for kids and dog runs for pets).



Commercial/retail on ground floor of high density applications to create 15-minute walkable neighbourhoods.



Market Driven Parking & Car Share Availability



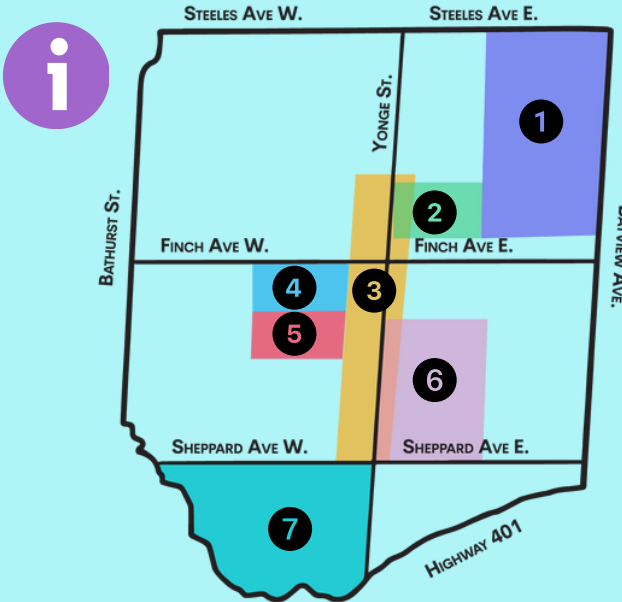
Underground access for pedestrians from developments to subway stations where possible.

JOIN A NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION!

Join a group of neighbours that work together towards building connectivity along with addressing issues such as community safety, development, and neighbourhood improvements.

- 1 Bayview Cumber Neighbourhood Association
- 2 Silverview Community Association
- 3 Yonge Corridor Condominium Association
- 4 Edithvale Yonge Community Association
- 5 West Willowdale Neighbourhood Association
- 6 Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association
- 7 West Lansing Homeowners Association

For more information please visit: [lilycheng.ca/neighbourhood-associations](https://www.lilycheng.ca/neighbourhood-associations)
If your area is not represented, please contact my office and we can help you start a new association.



MEL LASTMAN SQ. upcoming events

- NOV 11 Diwali by Moksha Canada
- NOV 25 Willowdale Christmas Market & Parade hosted by NeighbourLink North York, Tree lighting hosted by YNY BIA
- DEC 7 Hanukkah Celebration
- DEC 01-23 Holiday in the Square hosted by Epilepsy Canada
- FEB 10-MAR 10 Enchanted Lights Festival hosted by YNY BIA

COUNCILLOR & COMMUNITY upcoming events

- NOV 14-15 Tamarack Climate Action Conference Satellite Location
- NOV 16 Metrolink Sheppard Extension Consultation
- NOV 16 Willowdale West Town Hall with Community Spaghetti Dinner
- NOV 18 Danish Christmas Bazaar
- NOV 23 Newtonbrook East Town Hall with Community Spaghetti Dinner
- NOV 24 TTC Pop-up Town Hall
- NOV 30 Willowdale East Town Hall with Community Spaghetti Dinner
- DEC 9 Lansing Holiday Market
- JAN 14 Willowdale Skate Party
- FEB 10-11 Lunar New Year Event
- JAN / FEB Town Halls for Newtonbrook West, Avondale, West Lansing
- JAN / FEB Willowdale Property Manager Brunch
- MAR 16 Nowruz Celebration
- APR Community Environment Day and ECO Fair



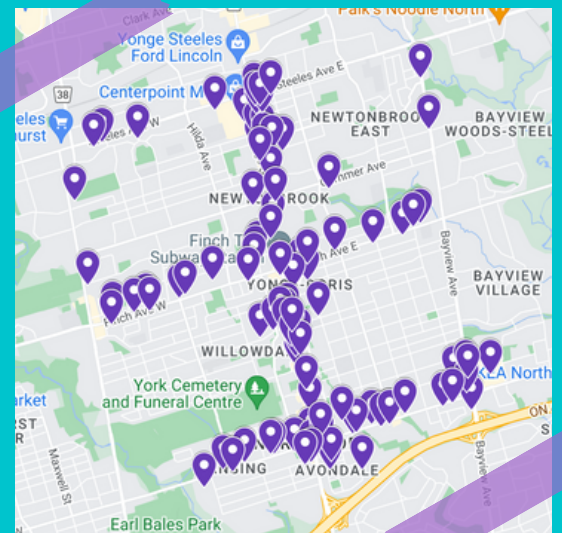
www.lilycheng.ca/events



PLEASE NOTE: Events are subject to change. Please sign up for our E-Newsletter for latest updates.

ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN WILLOWDALE

This map shows all the preliminary (2), active (71), under-construction (12), and completed (20) development sites in our ward for a total of 106 sites.



Learn more at: [lilycheng.ca/development](https://www.lilycheng.ca/development)

1 IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL **9-1-1**

2 NON-EMERGENCY If there is no immediate danger, call **416-808-2222** or file online: tps.ca/report

3 FOR CITY SERVICES & PROGRAMS Call **3-1-1** or file online: toronto.ca/311 You can also download the **311 Toronto App**. Complaints related to noise, property, animals, waste collection, road and sewer maintenance and tree related requests.

4 COMMUNITY RESOURCES Call **2-1-1** or visit www.211central.ca Health, social and related government services.

5 **Stan Cho, MPP**
416-733-7878 / stan.cho@pc.ola.org

6 **Ali Ehsassi, MP**
416-223-2858 / ali.ehsassi@parl.gc.ca

Get ready for a TOWN HALL ROADSHOW

- Meet Neighbours
- Share Ideas
- Connect with City Staff
- Enjoy Spaghetti!

Check out the upcoming town halls. Stay tuned for other neighbourhoods.