www.lilycheng.ca

Hi Neighbour!

Tomorrow marks the 15th day of the Lunar New Year - also known as the Lantern Festival. We are really excited about tomorrow's event: Willowdale Celebrates Lunar New Year. Please join us for a day of festivities, performances and you can even join a small parade from inside the atrium at North York Centre (NOT North York Civic Centre) with Lunar New Year Lions and a Dragon from 5pm!

North York Atrium - Lunar New Year Market - 1-9pm

Food	Vendors	
Taiwanese Popcorn Chicken (鹽水雞)	Handcrafted candles	
Sticky Rice (油飯)	Taiwanese Indigenous Arts	
Oven Theory: Asian Inspired Cupcakes	Natural Skincare	
Cookies	Ginseng Tea	
Bubble Tea	Japanese Gifts	
Taro Cookies	Creative Stationery	
Bamboo Rice	Taiwanese Teaand more!	
Taiwanese Snacks		
(芋頭籤、紫米糕、筒仔米糕、芋頭餅)		

• Stage Show (2-5pm)

• Lion & Dragon Parade (5pm)

North York Atrium - 2-6pm

- Taiwanese Tea Demonstration
- Photo Backdrop
- Guqin (Chinese Instrument) Performances
- Cultural Dance Performances
- Calligraphy
- Origami
- Lantern Making
- Colouring Station
- Candle Workshop
- Face Painting
- Airbrush Tattoos
- Caricatures
- Balloon Animals
- North York Library 1-3:30pm

Bilingual Mandarin/English Story Time

- Dragon Craft Drop-In (Auditorium)
- Mel Lastman Square 6:30-10pm

LED Lion Dance

- Outdoor Stage Performances including martial arts!
- Enchanted LightsRoving Performers
- Roving Performers
- Food Vendors
- It is so beautiful to see the community come together to celebrate. Please dress

martial arts and Lion Dance! For more information, please see the graphic below or visit: www.lilycheng.ca/events

Work on the Police Board and Anti-Racism Advisory Panel

I am currently the Co-Chair of the Anti-Racism Advisory Panel of the Toronto

warmly for the evening performances as you won't want to miss out on the

Police Services Board. This week we talked about how to bring more accountability and visibility to requests made by the advisory panel. My Co-

four groups of people with ongoing presence in the area:

Yonge Street Foot Patrol (from 32 Division)

Chair Nadine Spencer and myself will be working to strengthen the connection between the advisory panel and the board to build a stronger communication channel so that policies being reviewed have more opportunities for input and accountability. This will be a process towards a 2.0 version of the advisory panel. Although this is one of many responsibilities on my plate, this is an important opportunity to foster trust and accountability between the police and the black community.

On Homelessness
Increasingly, this issue impacts cities across North America. This past week we spoke with Metrolinx about the bus terminal at Finch Station. Currently, there are

YRT Special ConstablesMetrolinx Special Constables

for those in need.

Streets to Homes

- In addition, there are TTC Community Safety Ambassadors who cover the TTC
- portion of Finch Station. One of my goals is to establish a regular touchpoint between all these agencies to share information and reduce overlap. Hopefully

As I scan across our city, so many divisions have had to create training and capacity around those struggling with homelessness, mental health and/or addiction. From libraries, to the TTC (which has opened up overnight buses for indoor respite), community centres and parks, every public space in our city has to figure out how to be compassionate while balancing the interests and needs of diverse groups in our communities. I know this has been a difficult transition

for many - for Willowdale to transition from being a sleepy suburb to a complex

this will result in a better allocation of resources and more coordinated support

urban environment. This got me thinking that we all need to level up in this area. We can all benefit from learning more about de-escalation, and how to interact with the unhoused in our neighbourhood. This is something my team and I will be working on bringing to the community.

It must be disappointing for some to hear that the challenges at Yonge/Finch Station do not have an easy nor immediate fix. Instead, we keep offering resources and dispersing situations as necessary. The key issue is there simply isn't enough housing nor shelter capacity available for all those that need it. I am looking for ways the city can improve this situation. This past week we met with someone with decades of experience running shelters who spoke about the need for space, and the need for shelters to operate at the right scale. She said 50-60 is best. She also mentioned the importance of community and why many

unhoused folks gravitate to encampments even when offered housing, because

living in a community is what is best for people. I am looking for ways that

smaller community-based shelters could be scaled to transition out of hotel shelters that are expensive and not necessarily what is best for clients. Please

A need for space for faith communities

This morning I met with Mr. Hussain of the North York Muslim Association. They have encountered some challenges finding space in the community for evening prayers during Ramadan. While my office looks into options for his community, it occurred to me that as our communities grow, the affordability and availability of space for faith communities has been an increasing challenge. When new cities are built with master plans, there is usually some planning around places of worship. Now, due to the rising cost of land value, places of worship have a harder time securing space. I believe faith plays an important role in our communities in building connectivity and providing support. I plan to have further discussions to talk about how places of worship can be included in our vision of

discussions to talk about how places of worship can be included in our vision of the rapidly growing density of our city.

Arts & Cultural Development in Willowdale

This past week I met with the Arts and Culture Services Division. We heard there were several North York submissions for cultural festival grant funding and we are hopeful for positive outcomes. I have been advocating for Nuit Blanche to return in the same way it happened in 2022. While there are some plans for 2025, there is uncertainty for 2024 due to lack of funding. We know that Arts & Culture are critical for community building and economic growth. I hope we can build some financial pathways to fund more arts and culture in Willowdale which would increase the vibrancy of our neighbourhood. On the horizon, there will be some opportunities for animation around FIFA which we hope will include our

neighbourhood. Sadly, the Canada Day events that were previously held at Mel Lastman Square with fireworks are no longer scheduled as their event budget

has decreased. We await the outcome of a grant applied for by the BIA and hope we can have something for the community.

Why do I invest time into events?

The Toronto Foundation released a report that found Toronto to be one of the loneliest cities in Canada. Too many amongst us do not have a feeling of belonging. I do not think living in anonymity is good for mental health, nor is it good for democracy. My team and I spend time on empowering local organizations to bring vibrancy and animation to our spaces because we know it's an important stepping stone for further community engagement. The more

people have access to avenues to participate and share their ideas, the more we can work together to build a stronger community. Furthermore, bringing Lunar New Year, Nowruz and Diwali celebrations to Willowdale has been an important opportunity to build bridges across our diverse community and reflect the beauty of our diversity in our public spaces. Yes, we need to work on community safety, affordable housing, homelessness and traffic solutions - but we do this in a more meaningful way when we are interconnected.

And on that note - I look forward to seeing you **TOMORROW** for our <u>Willowdale</u> Celebrates Lunar New Year! After University I spent several years living in Taiwan where I enjoyed the celebratory crowds in the New Year Market on DiHua Street. Coming back to Canada, I missed the revelry which is hard to replicate when you are only celebrating with immediate family. I am excited for the opportunity to share the spirit of the Lunar New Year with our community through this special event.

Warmest Regards,

Councillor Lily Cheng

Ward 18 Willowdale / Councillor_Cheng@toronto.ca / 416-392-0210

Click On The Links Below or Scroll Down To Learn More About:

~ COUNCILLOR UPDATES

- Willowdale Celebrates Lunar New Year Lantern Festival • Willowdale Safety Town Hall
- Willowdale Nowruz Celebration
- CampTO Update
- <u>Harlandale Closure</u>
- Councillor Lily Cheng Call For Volunteers Vacant Home Tax

~ CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

- RapidTO Plans in Willowdale
- Information Handout for Warming Centre
- New Shared Park Consultation

• Toronto Hydro Construction Notice

- Paid On-street Parking on Statutory Holidays
- Ontario's One Fare Program Heritage Register Review: Public Information Session

~ COMMUNITY UPDATES

Nowruz Festival 2024 - Song of the North

Toronto Public Health Strategic Planning

- Nourish a Neighbour
- Willowdale Kindness Month Inspire Kindness Contest
- Public Realm Master Plan Visioning Survey
- My Safe Place

COUNCILLOR UPDATES



SEE YOU TOMORROW at the Willowdale Celebrates Lunar New Year

Lantern Festival at North York Centre and Mel Lastman Square! Moving

LUNAR NEW YEAR LANTERN FESTIVAL

back to Canada after living in Asia for several years, I always missed the revelry of Lunar New Year. Tomorrow, we are going to create our own feeling of 熱鬧 (crowded revelry)! It's a free event with many arts, crafts and demonstrations. There will be a Lunar New Year Market, with lots to eat and buy! There will be an amazing line up of fun activities, including performances, crafts, Mandarin/English storytime, candle workshop, balloon animals, tea demonstration, and much more! Free skate rentals provided by Desjardins! Enjoy some mouth-watering food from our amazing food vendors. There will be free bubble tea courtesy of Fantuan! Bring your family and friends to this wonderful celebration. Free admission for all! **RSVP**



WILLOWDALE



and burglaries, we are hosting a town hall with 32 Division to discuss crime trends in our community, crime prevention, setting up community based neighbourhood watch and other ideas to increase safety in our neighbourhood.

Stay tuned for location and Zoom link details.

Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm

Date: Monday, March 4, 2024

RSVP



WILLOWDALE NOWRUZ CELEBRATION - SAVE THE DATE!

SPRING IS COMING and so is our 2nd annual Willowdale Nowruz Celebration, co-hosted with Tirgan. Join us on March 9th at North York Centre and North York Central Library for art workshops, yoga for kids, Haftseen displays, traditional dress try-ons, and lively Iranian dance and music performances. Complimentary Persian tea will be served to participants. Let's celebrate Nowruz together! Stay tuned for workshop and performance details, along with RSVP links.



GOULDING Community Centre Camp TO Plus: Sports

Camp name	Ages	Fees for Toronto residents	Start to end dates	Barcode
Camp TO Plus: Sports	6 to 12 years	\$188	July 2 – July 5	4297004
Camp TO Plus: Sports	6 to 12 years	\$234	July 8 – July 12	4297006
Camp TO Plus: Sports	6 to 12 years	\$234	July 15–July 19	4297008
Camp TO Plus: Sports	6 to 12 years	\$234	July 22–July 26	4297010
Camp TO Plus: Sports	6 to 12 years	\$234	July 29-Aug 2	4297011
Camp TO Plus: Sports	6 to 12 years	\$188	Aug 6-Aug 9	4297019
Camp TO Plus: Sports	6 to 12 years	\$234	Aug 12-Aug 16	4297024
Camp TO Plus: Sports	6 to 12 years	\$234	Aug 19-Aug 23	4297055

While many Camps are already full for this summer, we have several spaces

CampTO UPDATE

available for our CampTO Plus: Sports Camp at Goulding Community

Centre. Click here for all things CampTO.

Registration is underway!

Learn More

Call 416-396-7378 or login to your E-FUN account.



October 2024. Activities include setting up work zones and preparing the area. Signage will be in place, and Customer Services Representatives will be on-site

to assist customers with temporary changes.

Meet



COUNCILLOR CHENG

Calling all community members: Are you passionate about making a difference in your community? Join us in our mission to bring about change and

COUNCILLOR LILY CHENG - CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

impact lives positively! We're looking for dedicated volunteers to join our team and help us make a difference.

Calling all students: Looking to earn volunteer hours while having fun and making a difference? This is the perfect opportunity for you!

We're not just about volunteering; we're about fostering a **Connected Community**. Sign up now and be a part of something meaningful. Let's work together to make Willowdale a better place!

Sign Up Now



In Toronto, owners of residential properties must declare their occupancy status annually, even if they reside there. The Vacant Home Tax (VHT) applies to properties not serving as the principal residence, occupied by tenants, or eligible for exemptions for six months or more in a calendar year. Access the online portal for declarations now, or in-person drop-in sessions are available for those needing assistance with their declaration. For residents in Willowdale, the North York Civic Centre is hosting sessions on February 28, and 29. These sessions take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. near the Inquiry & Payment counters.

Learn More

The declaration deadline is **February 29, 2024.** Act now!



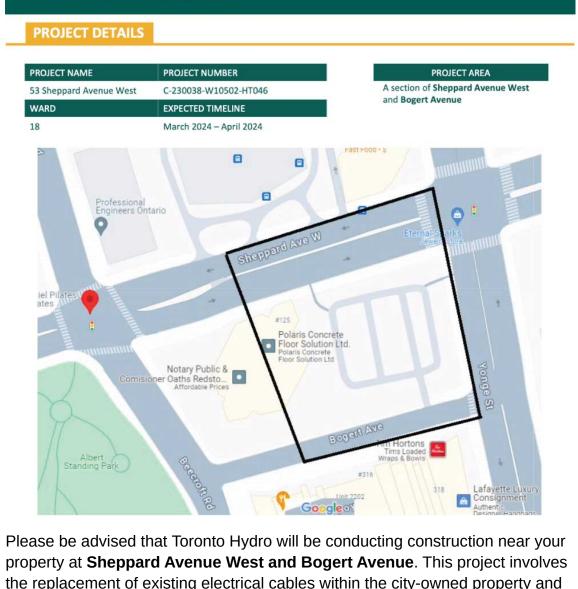
providing essential support for individuals experiencing homelessness during cold weather, activated when temperatures drop to minus five degrees Celsius.

Warming Centres are a vital component of the City's Winter Services Plan,

For the second year, we are hosting a warming centre at Willowdale Baptist

INFORMATION HANDOUT FOR WARMING CENTRE

Church, located at 12 Holmes Ave. Dixon Hall, the operator of the warming centre, with support from Toronto Shelter and Support Services, has developed a one-sheet resource. This "Who Do I Call?" document provides essential information on who to contact in the event of an incident for safety and wellbeing. We encourage you to review the provided information and remain engaged with our office should you have any further inquiries or require assistance. Construction Notice



the replacement of existing electrical cables within the city-owned property and is scheduled to take place from March to April 2024.

Project Duration: March 2024 – April 2024 **Learn More**

Project Area: A section of Sheppard Avenue West and Bogert Avenue



NEW SHARED PARK CONSULTATION

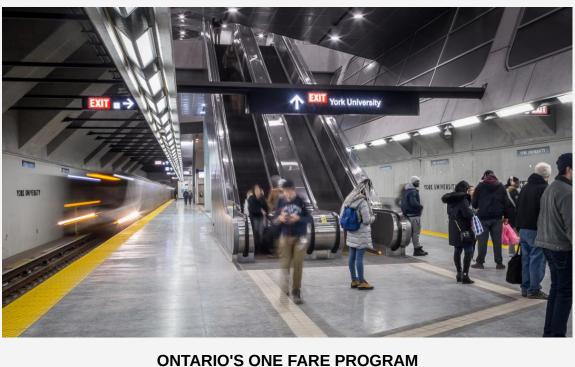
In partnership with the **Parent Council of St. Cyril Catholic School**, we will be developing their asphalt school yard into a park that can be shared with community members on evenings and weekends. The Parks division has identified this pocket as an area of our neighbourhood with great density that would benefit from access to further park amenities which this project can help facilitate. Please join us Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30pm at St. Cyril for a consultative discussion on a much needed amenity for our community and for the school! Click Here to fill out the survey. Click Here to RSVP for the consultation.

RSVP

CITY OF TORONTO UPDATES

PAID ON-STREET PARKING ON STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

Starting February 19, 2024, the Toronto Police Service will enforce paid onstreet parking on statutory holidays, a departure from past practices. This decision aims to manage the rising demand for parking in the city, reflecting Toronto's growth and the need for efficient parking management. **Learn More**



Ontario's One Fare Program will offer free transfers between participating transit agencies. Starting on February 26, 2024, customers paying with a

PRESTO card, PRESTO in Google Wallet, debit or credit card, will be able to transfer for free between the TTC and Brampton Transit, Durham Region Transit, MiWay and York Region Transit within the two-hour transfer window. Also, TTC customers paying single-ride fares connecting to and from GO Transit within a three-hour transfer period will benefit from a fare discount, making their TTC fare-free. The program applies to youths, adults, post-secondary students, seniors, and TTC Fair Discount Pass customers. Customers paying with cash, TTC tickets/tokens, or PRESTO tickets cannot transfer for free between transit agencies. **Learn More**



answer questions. This project has been initiated to develop a strategy for responding to amendments made to Section 27 (Heritage Register) of the Ontario Heritage Act that came into force on January 1, 2023. The Heritage Register Review project is focused on developing an ongoing strategy to prioritize the designation of properties that are currently listed on the Toronto Heritage Register before they are removed from the register on January 1, 2025. **Learn More**

project. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about the project and



TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIC PLANNING The Board of Health and Toronto Public Health (TPH) are currently developing

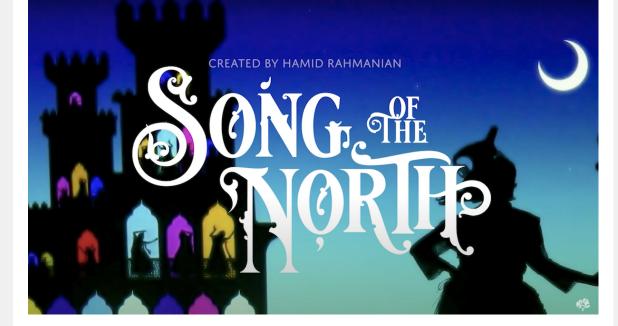
for the next four years. You're invited to help shape the development of the Strategic Plan! To make your voice heard, submit your feedback by completing

the survey by March 17, 2024.

the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, which will be the roadmap to guide TPH's work

Take the Survey

COMMUNITY UPDATES



Tirgan proudly presents "Song of the North" a breathtaking spectacle of light and shadow based on a timeless love story from Shahnameh (The Book of Kings). Crafted by the visionary artist Hamid Rahmanian, this mesmerizing cinematic shadow theater, narrated in English, is brought to you a year ahead of its Broadway debut at the Nowruz Festival 2024.

Venue: Meridian Arts Centre

Date: March 8-10, 2024

Secure your tickets now at www.tirgan.ca and be captivated by this visually

stunning masterpiece.

Get Ticket



NOURISH A NEIGHBOUR

NeighbourLink North York & Gift Local TO launched a campaign called "Nourish a Neighbour," where customers can pay it forward by buying a meal for a neighbour in need. The goal is to not only address heightened food insecurity, but also bolster support for local restaurants.

You can purchase a meal for a neighbour, or redeem a meal at these locations: - Yonge Cafe & Bistro (5000 Yonge St.)

- Anotherland Coffee (4714 Yonge St)
- Woodhouse BBQ (4664 Yonge St)

If you're a restaurant who would like to join the campaign, email sebastian@neighbourlink.org

Learn More

inspire kindness design contest

SEE YOUR WORK SHARED ACROSS OUR COMMUNITY



Shirt in their online store and sold to fundraise for their food bank and community care programs. The winner will win a gift card and merchandise with their design! Let's see the whole neighbourhood rocking your design, promoting kindness and making a difference in our community. **Contest Closes: Friday March 1st, 2024** Send Design To: kindness@neighbourlink.org Design Specs: 2100px width by 1800px height

Learn More



Participate by March 1st, 2024

www.surveymonkey.com/r/YongeNorthYork

The YNYBIA has begun the process of developing a public realm and streetscape master plan.

insight into the future of the area is incredibly valuable. To help get you started, the public realm includes things like street furniture, greenery, shade, your

As a member of the community, your feedback and

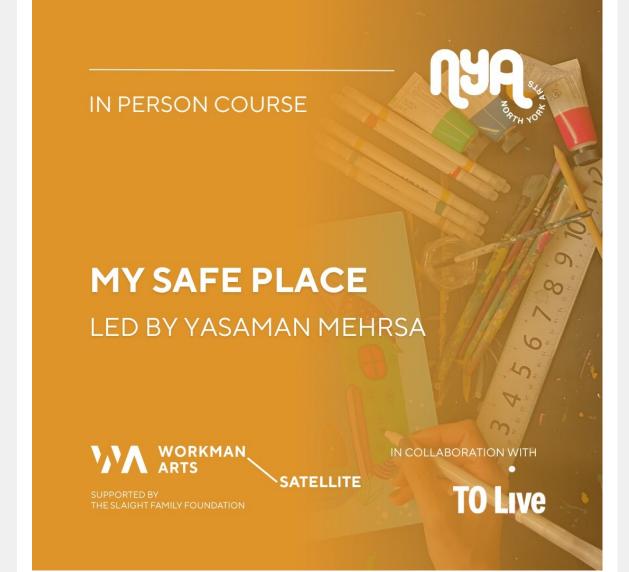
www.yongenorthyork.com hello@yongenorthyork.com

experience as a pedestrian, and more!

PUBLIC REALM MASTER PLAN VISIONING SURVEY The Yonge North York BIA (YNYBIA) is seeking input from community

members like you for their public realm and streetscape master plan. Your feedback on aspects such as parklets, greenery, lighting, street furniture, and public art will help shape the future of the BIA. This survey, part of a broader community engagement initiative, aims to gather insights to create a vibrant and welcoming public realm within the YNYBIA boundary.

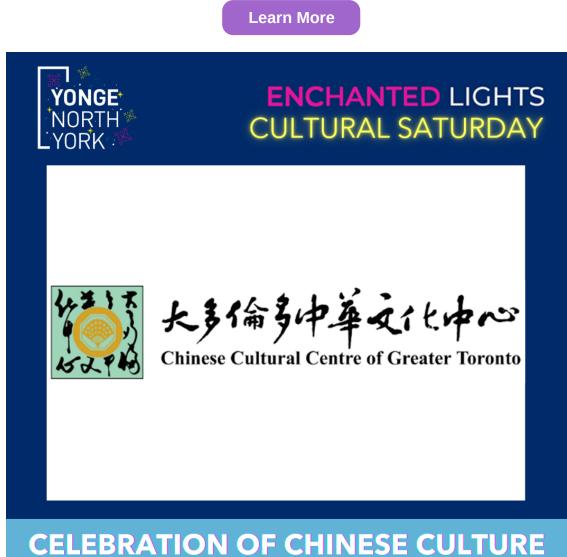
Participate by March 1st, 2024 Take The Survey



MY SAFE PLACE, a free mixed media painting workshop where you'll embark on a creative journey to design your own imaginary houses. Learn basic perspective tricks to bring these houses to life using watercolour/acrylic paints, markers, and nature-inspired designs. Every Tuesday from March 5 to April 16 at Meridian Arts Centre in North York, unleash your creativity and transform blank canvases into vibrant, personalized safe havens. Each house you paint tells a unique story, making this workshop a delightful and imaginative experience for all.

Dates: Tuesdays Mar 5,12,19,26 & Apr 2,9,16 Time: 5:30PM-7:00PM

Location: Meridian Arts Centre











ENCHANTED LIGHTS COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2024

NORTH YORK ATRIUM

Enjoy fun & delicious vendors from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm!

FREE! Bubble Tea from Fantuan 2:00 PM -**Cultural Performances**

6:00 PM Live Music

> Tea Demonstration Children's Crafts

Pictures with the God of Fortune

Calligraphy Demonstrations

1:00 PM -**NORTH YORK LIBRARY** Bilingual Mandarin/English Story Time 3:30 PM

Dragon Craft Drop-In (Auditorium)



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2024



Lions and Dragon will lead the visitors from the

North York City Centre Atrium into Mel Lastman Square

PARADE OF THE LION & DRAGON

6:30 PM **OPENING PERFORMANCE** Chinese Drum Performance by Bobby Ho

> LION DANCE & TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES Performed by Wayland Li Martial Arts Centre

DRAGON DANCE

7:00 PM Performed by Wayland Li Martial Arts Centre

5:00 PM

6:40 PM

7:20 PM

(MODIFIED) MARTIAL ARTS

Performed by Wayland Li Martial Arts Centre

Experience the heart of Chinese culture with a day filled with captivating

activities, including performances, library crafts, Mandarin/English storytime, and a delectable array of snacks. Event Activities taking place at North York Centre Atrium & Library are proudly co-hosted by: Councillor Cheng & YTMAT. As the sun sets, immerse yourself in the magic of the Year of the Dragon,

featuring enchanting lights, strolling performers, a lion and dragon dance, Chinese drumming, martial arts displays, and traditional Chinese dance performances. Presented by the Yonge North York BIA and the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto at Mel Lastman Square. Free admission for all! Learn more at <u>yongenorthyork.com/enchantedlights</u>

LET'S CONNECT ON SOCIAL

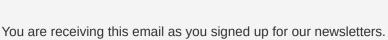












Want to change how you receive these emails? You can <u>Unsubscribe</u> or <u>Update your preferences</u>