

BONNIE CROMBIE MAYOR

AT HOME IN MISSISSAUGA **Bonnie Crombie's Plan for Seniors**

You have worked hard, raised families and helped make Mississauga the city it is today. You deserve to enjoy your retirement here, close to the people and places you love.

But rising bills can make that harder. So can maintaining a home, getting to appointments or finding an affordable place to live when your needs change.

I want Mississauga to be a city where growing older means having choices, staying independent and remaining part of your community.

My plan will provide more financial relief, practical help at home and more opportunities to stay active and connected.

1. More help with property taxes

For seniors living on a fixed income, rising property taxes can take money away from groceries, utilities and other necessities.

I will work with Council and Peel Region to increase the annual property tax rebate to \$1,000 for eligible seniors with low incomes, while maintaining support for eligible residents with disabilities.

We will make the program easier to access, with simpler renewals, application assistance at libraries and community centres and better information accompanying tax bills. Seniors dealing with the death of a spouse or a significant change in income will have help understanding their options.

I will also bring forward an interest-free, one-year deferral of annual property tax increases for eligible homeowners aged 65 and older. This will give seniors facing a temporary financial squeeze more time to pay, with clear repayment terms.

These measures will accompany my commitment to bring City spending and tax increases under control.

2. Practical support to stay in your home

Sometimes, a little help can make the difference between staying safely at home and feeling that you have to leave.

I will establish a Stay at Home partnership fund, delivered with trusted community organizations, to help seniors with low incomes obtain minor home-safety improvements and practical assistance.

The fund will support measures such as grab bars and small accessibility improvements, while connecting residents with existing programs for larger renovations and home support.

I will also expand access to the City's windrow-clearing program where eligible demand exceeds available spaces and work with community partners to connect seniors with reliable seasonal assistance.

Residents will be able to get help by telephone or in person.

3. Keep seniors moving and active

I will protect free MiWay travel for seniors and the City's free fitness membership for residents aged 65 and older.

I will build on these programs with more beginner and adapted activities, additional daytime programming and more indoor pickleball opportunities where demand is high.

We will help seniors obtain and set up their PRESTO cards and make recreation registration easier for people who prefer to speak with someone.

I will also establish an annual program of improvements around seniors' residences, community centres and neighbourhood destinations, prioritizing benches, accessible bus stops and safer crossings.

Free programs should be easy to reach and easy to enjoy.

4. More connection, closer to home

No one should feel forgotten in the city they helped build.

I will provide predictable, multi-year support to community organizations offering seniors' social activities, community meals, telephone check-ins and outreach to people living alone.

Libraries and community centres will host regular assistance sessions connecting seniors and caregivers with benefits, community services and fraud-prevention information. We will work with local organizations to offer support in the languages residents speak.

A Mississauga Seniors Advantage Program will bring together information about these services, municipal activities and voluntary discounts from participating local businesses. Printed information and in-person assistance will be available.

5. More housing choices near family and friends

Whether you want to remain in your home, move into a smaller apartment or live closer to family, you should have options in Mississauga.

I will work with Peel Region, non-profit and co-operative housing providers, faith communities and other partners to advance affordable, accessible seniors' housing near transit, shops and community services.

Within my first year, the City will publish suitable City-owned land and partnership opportunities, together with the next steps required to move each project forward. City support will be tied to clear affordability commitments and delivery milestones.

I will also make garden suites and multigenerational housing easier to navigate, with accessible standard designs, clearer advice and targeted relief from eligible City fees.

A city where you can enjoy the life you have built

My commitment is straightforward: help seniors manage their bills, remain independent and stay connected to their community.

You should be able to look forward to your retirement in Mississauga with confidence.

A Future You Can Afford. Experience You Can Trust.