



# MAYOR'S update 2023



## A Personal Message From Mayor Bonnie Crombie

As the summer quickly approaches, I hope you are enjoying the warm weather and all the great things our city has to offer — parks, trails, community centres, festivals and so much more.

We recognize that the cost of living, from housing and groceries to gas and utilities, continues to put pressure on family finances. We're listening and doing what's in our power and pocketbook to make a difference.

As we look to the year ahead, the City of Mississauga will continue to face challenges associated with the current economic climate and the stress it will put on our budget.

Keeping affordability top of mind, Council passed a lean, "no frills" budget designed to minimize new spending and reduce the overall impact to you — the taxpayer. This year's budget deals with inflation, while making smart, targeted investments in important public infrastructure such as transit, road improvements, community centres and enhancing public safety. The things that make our quality of life great.

At the same time, Council is doing what it can to make a difference for those who need it most. Through the budgeting process, we have identified \$3.5 million in savings, while introducing affordability measures that will help make life easier, such as piloting free MiWay transit for children and \$1 all-day transit for seniors.

To address the housing affordability crisis, we are working with the Government of Ontario to deliver on their goal of building more affordable homes. Through Growing Mississauga, our City's newest housing plan, we will speed up growth to reach the province's target of building 120,000 new homes in the next decade.

Whether you've lived here for 30 years or just arrived, you have our commitment that as the city grows, it will continue to be a place where people want to live, work and raise a family for generations to come. Everyone who wants to, will be able to call Mississauga home.

To do this, we must make the much-needed investments in infrastructure from roads, bridges and bike lanes to transit, parks and all the things that keep our city safe and running. Our strong financial management and a balanced budget help us keep property taxes competitive and at the rate of inflation. Yet, as we look ahead, we know we have our work cut out for us. While we welcome the province's commitment to compensating Mississauga for lost money for infrastructure and parks as a result of the *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23), the payments have not yet arrived. Without compensation, and limited ability to pay for growth except through property taxes, Mississauga could be facing an even more difficult year ahead.

At City Hall, we continue to find efficiencies and run a tight ship. Over the past 12 years, we've managed to find more than \$77 million in efficiencies and savings without impacting services. As we work to grow our city, we will continue our strong record of fiscal management. Becoming an independent, stand-alone municipality would allow us to save \$1 billion over the next 10 years. It would also ensure your hard-earned tax dollars stay local and are invested in services, infrastructure and supports that residents and businesses directly benefit from.

I want to thank everyone who engaged in this year's budget process — you've told us directly what's important to you and your families, and the 2023 Budget reflects that. Your input is very important to us, because at the end of the day, we are accountable to you.

Thank you for choosing Mississauga — we have so much to be proud of. This is our city, our future and there's nothing we can't do or achieve together.

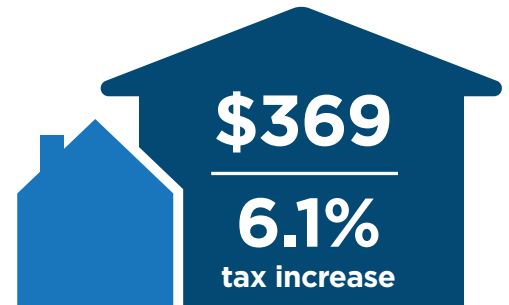
Warmest regards,

Bonnie Crombie, MBA, ICD.D.  
Mayor of Mississauga

## 2023 Property Taxes

This year, Mississauga residents will see a 3 per cent increase on the City portion of their Residential Tax Bill and an additional 3.1 per cent on the Region of Peel's portion. This means an increase

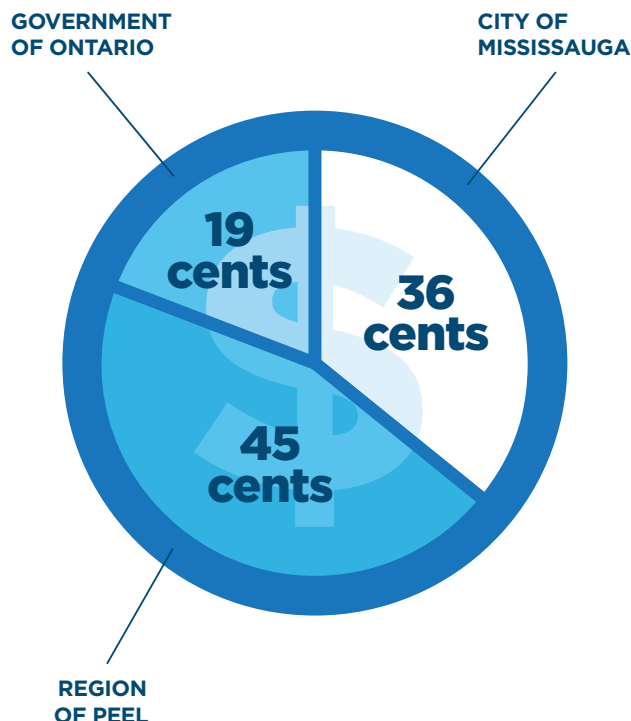
of about \$369 per year for the typical single-family home, valued at \$730,000. Some households will pay more or less, depending on the assessed value of their home.



Based on an average residential property in Mississauga valued at \$730,000.

## How City Services are Funded

For every property tax dollar collected, only 36 cents stay with the City of Mississauga. The rest is allocated to the Region of Peel and the Government of Ontario's Ministry of Education.



Property taxes (residential and commercial) are the City's largest source of revenue and represent 59 per cent of the money it receives. The City also collects additional revenue from these sources:

- User fees
- Canada Community-Building Fund (Federal Gas Tax)
- Provincial Gas Tax and Revenue Transfers
- Other revenues and Provincial Offences Act fines
- Payments in Lieu of Taxes
- Investment income and dividends
- Municipal Accommodation Tax

In addition to these sources, the City is always exploring other ways to generate revenue to offset operating costs. Long-term, dedicated funding from the provincial and federal governments is necessary for Mississauga to continue to build and maintain strong communities.

### Cost Savings and Efficiencies

The City of Mississauga runs a lean and efficient organization. We have implemented many cost containment strategies to find savings and reduce your tax rate. The 2023 Budget contains savings of \$3.5 million or a 0.6 per cent reduction in the City's net costs. The City continues to look for opportunities to keep costs low through operational efficiencies, support from other levels of government and user fees.

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## Making Important Investments

This year, the City is investing in various projects to build, maintain, rehabilitate and remodel its infrastructure. This year's budget makes important investments for you, including:

- \$3.6 million for sidewalks
- \$21.5 million for road rehabilitation
- \$1.9 million for new and replacement tree plantings

In addition to the \$83.8 million allocated for the purchase of hybrid buses, the City is also looking to make transit a more affordable, accessible and convenient option. Starting May 1, a one-year pilot program was introduced to help make transit fares on MiWay more affordable for children (12 and under) as well as seniors (65 and older).



**\$1.9 million**  
for new & replacement tree plantings

**\$83.8 million**  
for hybrid bus acquisitions



**\$3.6 million**  
for sidewalks



**\$25.6 million**  
winter maintenance budget



**\$21.5 million**  
for road rehabilitation

**\$268 million**  
for maintaining infrastructure



**Hazel McCallion  
Central Library**  
reopening



**New Malton  
Youth Hub**  
opening

**\$3.5 million**  
in efficiencies & cost savings



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## Delivering the Right Services

Mississauga delivers more than 200 services including parks, libraries, public transit, fire and emergency services, recreation programs, snow clearing and street tree maintenance.

The City uses master plans to help it focus on delivering the right services. These plans are updated every few years to reflect Mississauga's rapidly changing trends, infrastructure and service delivery needs. Some examples of master plan projects include:

**Hazel McCallion Central Library:** The Central Library is undergoing a significant renovation to meet the growing needs of its customers and changing business priorities. It is expected to be completed in fall 2023.

**Malton Youth Hub:** Scheduled to open at the end of 2023, the 18,000 square foot Malton Youth Hub will feature amenities including a large atrium for gathering, a commercial kitchen equipped for teaching programs, and small multi-purpose rooms.

**Carmen Corbasson Community Centre Renovation:** The City is renovating existing infrastructure and building a new addition to the Carmen Corbasson Community Centre, which will also feature an aquatic and fitness centre. This facility is targeted to reopen in fall 2024.

Each year, the City carefully invests in new initiatives to advance its strategic objectives. Ten new initiatives have been approved for 2023, nine of which have no impact on the tax rate and are offset by user fees or funded from the capital budget. These new initiatives include grant support to Culture groups, parkland growth and the IDEA Square One Innovation Hub.

In 2023-2024, the City will embark on a refresh of its Strategic Plan and will be looking for resident input throughout the process.

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## Maintaining Our Infrastructure

Mississauga's infrastructure is worth about \$14.2 billion and maintaining it continues to be one of the biggest costs for the City.

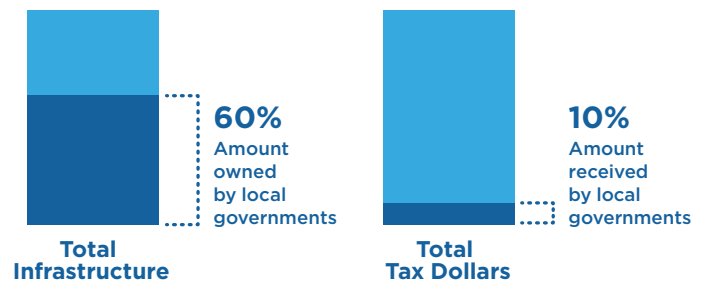
The City is responsible for maintaining roads, buildings, bridges, transit, sidewalks, bike lanes and traffic lights to ensure the infrastructure you rely upon is in a state of good repair.

Fifty-six per cent of the 2023 committed capital funding is earmarked for state-of-good-repair projects. These projects support the maintenance of valuable public infrastructure assets and protect taxpayers' investments in them. These investments include:

- **Transit:** \$168.3 million or 35 per cent of the 2023 capital budget
- **Roads:** \$79.6 million or 17 per cent of the 2023 capital budget

Of every tax dollar collected in Canada, Mississauga only receives 10 cents. The rest goes to the federal and provincial governments. At the same time, the City owns 60 per cent of the infrastructure in our community, which must be maintained in a state of good repair. The math just doesn't add up for Mississauga. We need support from the federal and provincial governments to keep our city strong.

**Local governments own most of the infrastructure but receive the smallest share of tax dollars.**



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## Future Considerations

Policies introduced at the provincial or federal level can influence the City's budget in the future.

### The More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23)

Last year, the Government of Ontario passed Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act*, which required Mississauga to pledge to build 120,000 new homes in the next 10 years. We are committed to growing responsibly and have a housing plan in place to meet the provincial housing target. However, new homes need new infrastructure, and to meet this goal, will require significant and accelerated provincial and federal funding for transit, infrastructure, and other community amenities.

Bill 23 also has the potential to further decrease the City's revenue streams, which are used to fund growth-related infrastructure and parks. As it currently stands, Mississauga stands to lose approximately \$1 billion in revenues over the next 10 years that would have been used for roads, bridges, fire stations, trails, parks and much more. The Government of Ontario has signalled its intention to compensate municipalities for losses related to Bill 23 following a third-party audit of

City finances. The City welcomes this review and looks forward to working co-operatively with the province to limit the strain on the community and taxpayers in the future, and to being fully compensated for any losses associated with Bill 23. Growth should pay for itself. Existing taxpayers shouldn't pay for new housing. For more information about housing in Mississauga, visit [mississauga.ca/housing](https://mississauga.ca/housing).




### Mississauga's Future: Separation or Amalgamation?

As part of the *Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022* (Bill 39), the Government of Ontario is reviewing the regional governance model and assessing the future of the Region of Peel. In January 2023, Mississauga Council reaffirmed its long-held position that separation from the Region is the right direction for the City - to create an independent, single-tier municipality, separate from the Region of Peel. Recent reports show cost savings for Mississauga taxpayers of up to \$84 million. To learn more, visit [mississauga.ca/mississaugasfuture](https://mississauga.ca/mississaugasfuture).

The City is waiting to hear back from the province about Bill 23 and the discussion around Mississauga's future in regional governance.

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**For more information  
about the City's budget,  
visit [mississauga.ca/budget](https://mississauga.ca/budget)**

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