

City Manager Joseph Pennachetti
Address to G-20 media
June 24, 2010, International Media Centre

Good morning everyone and welcome to the City of Toronto.

My name is Joe Pennachetti. I'm the City Manager. I want to be clear to the foreign media that I am a non-elected official, responsible for the City's programs and services and a staff of approximately 40,000.

You may not be aware that the City of Toronto is the sixth largest government in Canada, and the fifth largest city in North America.

As the City's best goodwill ambassadors and most valuable assets, each member of the Toronto Public Service has a part to play in delivering high quality services to Toronto's residents, businesses and our visitors.

We deliver more than 40 major services to a population of 2.7 million people. The result is a high quality of life enjoyed by the people who live and work in this wonderfully diverse city, as the Mayor noted.

To provide its programs and services, the City has a total annual budget of about \$12 billion dollars.

The City of Toronto is recognized as a leader in public service for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services and has received many international awards in recognition of this leadership.

We provide the key services that affect people most in their daily lives and those include public transit. The City's transit commission moves 500 million riders a year.

We keep people safe and respond to emergencies with the expertise of our police services, fire and emergency services.

We care for people by providing social services that include housing, employment, children and long term care services to our seniors.

The City has a green agenda. We maintain 8,045 hectares of green space, 1,505 parks, 500,000 street trees and 2.5 million trees in ravines, parks and forests.

The City, working with its residents, is a leader in environmental services that includes the solid waste management target of reducing waste by 70% by 2012.

Toronto's bold Climate Change, Clean Air and Sustainable Energy Action Plans are helping the City of Toronto and its residents, businesses and communities to take action to cut greenhouse gas emissions, clean the air and create a sustainable energy future.

In fact, our City facilities and operations have already exceeded Kyoto targets.

Toronto continues to grow as well. We have welcomed over 20,000 new residents each year since the last Census in 2006. This is due to strong immigration from overseas and elsewhere in Canada.

Despite the recent economic downturn, the City of Toronto real estate market has had little slowdown in the past two years. Currently, we have 40 residential highrise buildings under construction or ready for occupancy. There are another 25 projects under construction for various commercial uses, including 10 of which are office towers which total about 400,000 square metres.

We are also embarking on a period of ambitious construction on City infrastructure, which will see about 35 billion dollars in asset investment over the next 10 years. The City of Toronto believes in public and private partnerships and has reached agreements with the provincial and federal governments to fund and deliver new transportation and infrastructure projects, most notably environmentally-driven transit projects.

These investments will benefit Torontonians for generations to come with the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs over the next 10 years.

Finally, the G20 Summit will be learning how our banking industry is a leader as the Mayor highlighted. We have the 3rd largest financial centre in North America and the 3rd largest stock exchange in North America and the 8th largest in the world.

The result is that a strong Toronto means a strong province of Ontario and a strong Ontario means an even stronger Canada.

Again, we are pleased to welcome you to Toronto. I extend a warm invitation for you to take some time to enjoy our city - visit the amazing waterfront that is currently undergoing a major metamorphosis, stroll through our diverse neighbourhoods and see what it means to be a Torontonian who welcomes the world every day.