

# Downtown Toronto BIAs for a Healthy, Thriving Downtown Return

The COVID pandemic has been a challenge for everyone, everywhere. Our neighbourhoods and business communities in Toronto's downtown core are no different. As we look at how we move forward, a significant question has arisen:

## After the pandemic, what is required to ensure the downtown core is welcoming for returning workers and visitors?

For a healthy recovery of our city, our province and our country, the return of a thriving downtown core in Toronto will be absolutely necessary. We will need to see a re-focused, common sense commitment with clearly defined goals. We will need this from all levels of government in the following areas:

**BLOORYORKVILLE**

toronto  
**downtown west**  
Business Improvement Area

**DOWNTOWN**



ST. LAWRENCE MARKET  
NEIGHBOURHOOD BIA



TORONTO  
FINANCIAL  
DISTRICT



**WATERFRONT**  
BIA

# Streets that are clean, safe, inclusive and welcoming

Affordable housing, the need for supportive housing, mental health and addiction services have been more visible as workers and visitors decreased in downtown during the pandemic. We need a clear focus on providing housing and mental health solutions across the entire City of Toronto and the GTHA. We cannot have a healthy, thriving downtown core if these problems expand and drive more people in need to a few neighbourhoods downtown.

# Preserving and expanding a 'destination' downtown for workers and visitors

The pandemic has changed the nature of every business and how they serve employees, customers and visitors. This is a higher cost environment. The post-pandemic economy requires a fair, equitable and transparent tax environment that does not punish one group of businesses over another. This includes sharing burdens of new service and investment across the entire City and province, and across all tax classes. Not just businesses.

# Transit investment to ensure return (and growth) of the downtown workforce

450,000 worked in the Toronto downtown core prior to the pandemic. A healthy, thriving Toronto region will rely on their return, and the expansion of access to jobs with transit investment will be key. We will need to see all three levels of government continue to invest in new transit access. Construction mitigation will become even more important, and we must include direct support of businesses impacted to provide a chance to survive and thrive afterwards.

The Downtown BIAs are ready to do our part and support leaders who are committed to the success of the Toronto downtown core.

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Executive Director  
*Bloor-Yorkville BIA*

**Janice Solomon**  
Executive Director  
*Toronto Downtown West BIA*

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