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CHAIR, TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
NIGHT ECONOMY CHAMPION, CITY OF TORONTO

February 4, 2026

Subject: A Message of Solidarity with Toronto's Iranian Community

Dear Members of Toronto's Iranian Community, and City of Toronto Colleagues,

I want to acknowledge the profound pain, grief, and uncertainty many in our city are experiencing during this deeply difficult time. Toronto is home to a vibrant and valued Iranian community, and many residents and City employees are carrying the emotional weight of violence, instability, and human rights concerns affecting civilians in Iran.

I want to express our solidarity with you. We see you, we care about your well-being, and we recognize the impact these events are having on your lives, your families, and your sense of safety and belonging.

The Iranian community in Toronto has long demonstrated a deep commitment to peace, civic engagement, and democratic expression. The large, peaceful gathering held on February 1, marked by unity and an absence of incidents, reflected those values clearly and powerfully. It is a reminder of the strength, dignity, and compassion that continue to define this community.

As a City, our commitment is rooted in human dignity, inclusion, and respect for civilian life. We recognize that moments such as these can be especially challenging for Iranian City staff members, and we want to reaffirm that supports are available. The City remains committed to employee well-being, including access to mental health and counselling resources, and we encourage anyone who is struggling to make use of those supports.

While global events are complex, our values here in Toronto are clear. We stand with residents and colleagues who are experiencing fear or loss, and we remain committed to fostering a city where everyone feels supported, respected, and safe.

Thank you to the Iranian community for your continued contributions to Toronto and for the care, restraint, and solidarity you continue to show one another during this time.

With respect and compassion,

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie
Deputy Mayor, City of Toronto, Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood