



Rachel Chernos Lin

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Dear neighbours,

After such a long, cold and snowy winter, the spring flowers and blooming trees are such a welcome delight. Though the weather this spring has been somewhat inconsistent, it sure hasn't slowed the energy and commitment of so many community members across Don Valley West!

Outside of council duties, I've been busy throughout the ward—attending AGMs, spring cleanups, Environment Days, Coffee Chats, and community events, such as my first-ever Repair Café. These events are wonderful opportunities for us to come together, but also offer me the chance to hear directly from you about what matters most in our neighbourhoods. My team and I take back your questions and comments, and, where appropriate, turn them into motions at council and changes in the ward.

The impact of our brutal winter has been felt on our streets. Thank you to everyone who has continued to report potholes through 311—your first hand reporting truly makes a difference. With more stable, warm weather on the horizon, road resurfacing will soon be underway, and Ward 15 is fortunate to receive an additional 4km of resurfacing work this construction season.



Celebrating International Women's Day with MPP Stephanie Bowman, former Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne, and my mom, Bev.

The last month has not been without its challenges. I was shocked to learn of another fire in Thorncliffe Park, particularly since a number of residents are still displaced and recovering from the devastating fire last November. This latest disruption was thankfully shortlived and did not require current residents to relocate. Nonetheless, it has been an incredibly difficult couple of months for residents, and supporting the community remains a top priority.



At the Thorncliffe Park Community Hub visiting volunteers preparing Iftar meals with the City's Chief Planner, Jason Thorne

Safety also continues to be top of mind throughout our ward. This winter, I organized and moderated two meetings about safety with the Toronto Police Service, where I was joined by my colleagues MPP Stephanie Bowman and MP Rob Oliphant. On the traffic front, we have a number of initiatives coming to fruition, including new traffic signals at busy intersections, recently approved reduced speed limits on residential streets, and speed hump installations. These changes will help make our neighbourhoods safer and more livable. I was pleased to welcome senior staff from several divisions to my Town Hall in May giving residents the opportunity to ask

questions on important issues. We had presentations from the Hold Up Squad, our new Chief Congestion Officer, and neighbourhood watch to discuss everything we are doing to ensure safety and keep our city moving.

As we look ahead to warmer weather, I'm excited about the many upcoming opportunities to connect at spring fairs, community events, and, of course, my regular monthly Coffee Chats. My team and I will be out in full force, so if you see us, make sure to stop by and say hello! Read on for important updates about my work at City Hall, and as always, please reach out with any concerns, questions or ideas you wish to share.

Warm regards,

Rachel Chernos Lin
City Councillor
Ward 15 - Don Valley West

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Environment

Tree By-law and Ravine Strategy

Ward 15's tree canopy and ravine system are vital to making our neighbourhoods healthy, resilient places to live. Trees provide shade, improve air quality, and manage stormwater—services valued at \$55 million annually. I was proud to support recent updates to the City's Tree By-law – including a number informed by motions I moved at City Council – to strengthen tree protections and crack down on illegal removals. At the same time, Toronto's Ravine Strategy continues to deliver results, restoring thousands of hectares, removing invasive species and waste, creating student jobs, and advancing projects like the Ravine Loop Trail.



Water Meter Replacement

Over the next two years, the City will be replacing all water meter transmission units after they began failing earlier than expected. Replacements are free of charge and will be completed by geographic zone. Residents with failed transmission units are encouraged to submit manual readings online or by contacting 311. Neptune Technology Group, the City's contractor, will contact customers directly to schedule replacement appointments. For more information or to inquire about billing, visit toronto.ca/MTUreplacement or contact 311 for assistance.

Coffee Chat with RACHEL

WITH A FREE TREE GIVEAWAY!



Join me at my next Coffee Chat on Monday, June 15 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Toronto Botanical Garden! Pick up a free tree, learn more about my work at City Hall, and connect with me and my team.

To RSVP, visit RachelChernosLin.ca/events or scan the QR code here:



Parks & Recreation



My team and I have been working hard with City staff to deliver upgrades across Ward 15:

Playground enhancements at Kirkwood and Mossgrove Park

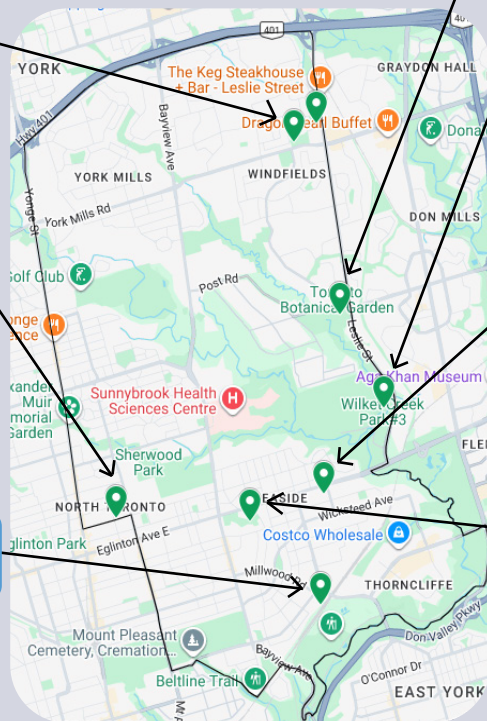
Designs for playground improvements currently being determined based on community feedback.

Dawn Redwood Park opening at 100 Broadway Ave

Addition of splash pad, seating, and horticulture. Stay tuned for an official opening event on my website!

Upgrades at Leaside Memorial Gardens

Structural wall and foundational repairs, refrigeration system improvements including ice rink and slab replacement.



Upgraded maintenance yard in Edwards Gardens

Greenhouse, rooftop solar panels and maintenance yard additions.

Bridge rehabilitation in Wilket Creek Park

Bridge replacement near the washroom building and repair of adjacent retaining wall.

New park at 939 Eglinton Avenue East

Interactive play area, accessible ramp, stage, open lawn, amphitheatre, and heritage hub.

Howard Talbot Park pickleball courts

New asphalt, fencing, line painting and parking flow enhancements, as well as two new dedicated pickleball courts.

Arena and Curling Club Upgrades

As a member of the Leaside Memorial Arena Board, I was proud to see major capital upgrades completed at this vital community facility. Improvements included a new concrete slab and refrigeration system in Ice Rink B, roof and structural upgrades, enhanced boards, improved accessibility, renovated community spaces, and upgraded lighting. Both ice pads now operate year-round, benefiting over 3,000 local youth and community users. With arena work complete, the City is investing in state-of-good-repair upgrades to the Leaside Curling Club, with construction planned from Summer 2026 to Fall 2027.



Police Contacts



Find your division:

tps.ca/my-neighbourhood

Home safety tips:

tps.ca/crime-prevention/home-security

53 Division: Constable Timothy Somers
Timothy.Somers@torontopolice.on.ca

33 Division: Constable Joel Roberts
Joel.Roberts@tps.ca

32 Division: Constable Hugo Couto
8079@tps.ca

Safety & Wellbeing



Interfaith Action

Developed last fall in response to rising antisemitism, my Ward 15 interfaith group has grown into Interfaith Action, bringing faith leaders and residents of all backgrounds together to build understanding and solidarity. This spring, it was heartening to see neighbours come together at Passover gatherings, Eid celebrations, and community events—demonstrating that protecting one another is a shared responsibility that begins locally, with neighbours standing side by side.



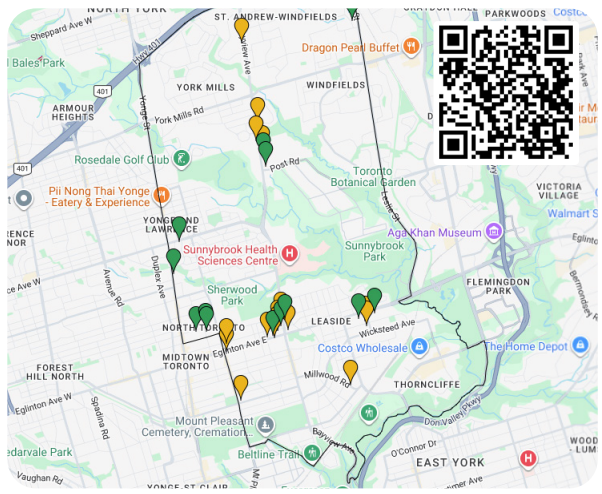
My Interfaith Action group has been volunteering with different congregations in Ward 15 this year.

Community Safety Meetings

My work continues to focus on safety close to home. While overall crime has declined in Toronto over the past two years, Ward 15 — like several others — experienced an uptick in car thefts and home invasions this spring. In response, I convened community safety meetings in Lawrence Park and Leaside. Representatives from the Toronto Police Service, MPP Bowman, and MP Oliphant joined residents to address concerns and discuss solutions. Thanks to the hard work of the force, we've already seen several arrests made in response to auto thefts and armed robberies in the area. I am committed to ensuring our neighbourhoods remain safe, connected, and supported—by working collaboratively with all levels of government, law enforcement, and residents to respond quickly and effectively to emerging concerns.

Development Map

Visit RachelChernosLin.ca/development to see a map of all active and upcoming development projects in Ward 15 - Don Valley West.



My tour with Toronto's Chief Planner, Jason Thorne, took us to all corners of Don Valley West. It was an important opportunity to show him the diversity of development in Ward 15, from Bayview Avenue to Thorncliffe Park.

Planning and Housing

AI Data Centres

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly integrated into everyday life, AI data centres are becoming more common. In response, I sought information on how data centres are reviewed in Toronto, particularly with respect to potential impacts on the environment and local infrastructure. What quickly became clear was that public facing information about this process is limited. If it is difficult for my office to navigate, residents are left with even less clarity.

That is why I brought forward a motion at City Council calling for greater transparency around how the City evaluates AI data centres. As these facilities continue to expand, Toronto must ensure the review process is clear, accountable, and aligned with the city's environment, infrastructure, and community priorities.



Welcoming residents to my Coffee Chat in Thorncliffe Park.



Speaking to members of the York Mills Residents Association about responsible city planning, my work at City Hall, and more.

Taking Action Against Bad Landlords

Meeting with tenant associations across Ward 15 reinforces how essential RentSafeTO is to keeping rental homes safe, healthy, and well maintained. Renters make up nearly half of Don Valley West households, and over 40% of multi-unit buildings are over five storeys—making strong landlord oversight critical. I've supported improvements to RentSafeTO, including work toward a maximum indoor temperature by-law to protect residents during extreme heat, and new colour-coded signage so tenants can easily see a building's RentSafeTO rating. I'm also backing stronger enforcement, proactive inspections, and higher fines for repeat offenders through implementation of a new cross-divisional database. Tenants deserve safe, dignified housing, and landlords must be held accountable.

Transportation

Pedestrian Signals

Improving pedestrian safety at busy intersections is top of mind for residents and for my office. I'm pleased to share that three new Intersection Pedestrian Signals (IPS) are moving forward in Don Valley West, which I supported through the City's approval process. As a member of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, I worked with City staff to advance IPS at Bayview and Sutherland, Bayview and Parkhurst/Soudan, and York Mills and Birchwood. Installation at Bayview and Sutherland will begin shortly. These pedestrian-activated signals improve safety on busy roads while limiting cut-through traffic, helping reduce collisions and protect pedestrians.

Supporting 30 km/h in Local Neighbourhoods

At North York Community Council this spring, I supported measures to make neighbourhood streets safer by lowering speed limits on local roads and lanes to 30 km/h. The changes align with Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, which recognizes that lower speeds reduce the risk of serious injury and saves lives. This report includes area-based speed reductions across Ward 15, along with targeted changes on Sandfield Road and Broadway Avenue to improve consistency and safety. This work helps create calmer, safer streets for all road users.



Touring the City's Traffic Operations Centre with Roger Browne, the Director of Congestion and Network Management.

Managing Congestion

First launched in 2013, Toronto's Congestion Management Plan (CMP) has changed substantially from its early years to meet the increased complexity and demands of our growing city. We are now beginning to see measurable results through coordinated construction planning, traffic agents, transit priority, improved signal timing, and tools like RoDARS. Travel times improved in 2025 compared to 2024, with the largest gains downtown. In January 2026, the City appointed its first Chief Congestion Officer, Andrew Posluns, reinforcing a more strategic approach. His first report, which came to council this spring, outlines early actions and long-term opportunities, including real-time congestion response and cross-city coordination. The 2026-28 CMP focuses on reducing construction impacts, improving transit reliability, leveraging smart technologies, and supporting sustainable travel choices.

Line 5 Eglinton Service Expansion

As Line 5 Eglinton settles into regular operation, expanded service hours are improving daily travel across our community. Since April 5, the line has been running longer hours, strengthening connections between Ward 15 and the rest of the city. Line 5 now operates from 5:30 a.m. to 1:20 a.m. Monday through Saturday and from 7:30 a.m. to 1:20 a.m. on Sundays, with overnight shuttle buses continuing nightly. These improvements increase flexibility for riders, ease bus congestion, support local businesses, and help ensure Line 5 delivers long-term benefits for our neighbourhoods. For schedules and notices visit ttc.ca/line5.



I was delighted to join our provincial leaders at the official opening of the long-overdue (but eagerly awaited!) Line 5.



Events

One of the many joys of my role is connecting with residents at events across Don Valley West. I'd like to thank everyone who participated for your engagement and community spirit!



This year, I held my first ever Repair Café in Thorncliffe Park with volunteers from the DVW4EA group!



We diverted tons of waste from landfill at my Community Environment Days.



Listening to your feedback and questions at my monthly Coffee Chats.



Senior City staff brought their expertise to each of my four Ward 15 Town Halls.

Stay tuned for my next event, including my summer movie night, at RachelChernosLin.ca/events



Standing with the Jewish community, both in Ward 15 and across Toronto, at synagogues that were repeatedly targeted.



Iftar dinners during Ramadan were so meaningful this year.

I participated in several community cleanups to keep our streets litter-free.



Handing out red envelopes to celebrate Lunar New Year.



Our Community



Working with Community Groups in Emergencies

In November, a major fire between two residential buildings in Thorncliffe Park displaced nearly 400 households and required weeks of firefighting efforts. Community partners and Toronto Emergency Management quickly mobilized to house, feed, and support affected residents. The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO) kept their hub at the East York Town Centre open overnight, providing shelter, meals, blankets, wellness checks, and connections to essential services. The response demonstrated the remarkable strength and resilience of the Thorncliffe Park community.

To build on this experience, I moved a motion at City Council directing staff to develop best practices for coordinating emergency services across City divisions and community partners. Earlier this spring, I was deeply concerned to learn that the same building experienced another fire, this time caused by remedial construction related to repairs from the initial incident. While residents were thankfully not required to evacuate again, my hope is that this motion will help ensure residents are consistently connected to the right supports throughout prolonged and complex emergency situations.

Importance of Local Governance

Provincial overreach is a major concern at City Hall. From the abrupt closure of the Ontario Science Centre to plans to expropriate lands around Billy Bishop Airport through Bill 5, the Province has repeatedly acted without meaningful consultation with the City. This pattern extends to education, where ongoing supervision has sidelined elected school trustees—leaving nearly one third of Ontario students, approximately 400,000 in Toronto, without local representation. Trustees are vital municipal partners, supporting school spaces, public health initiatives, and student wellbeing. In March, I moved a motion affirming their importance by calling for transparency and robust consultation before any changes to education governance. The province ignored this request and has proceeded to greatly diminish the role of trustees, cut the number of trustees at the TDSB by almost half, and has not given a clear timeline as to when trustees will be returned to their positions. The Minister of Education estimated anywhere from 2-10 years, a shocking admission that speaks to the province's determination to erode the very foundation of our democratic processes.

Contact the Premier's Office or your local representatives to make your voices heard.

Premier of Ontario:

premier@ontario.ca or 416-325-1941

MPP Stephanie Bowman:

sbowman.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org or 416-425-6777

MP Rob Oliphant:

rob.oliphant@parl.gc.ca or 613-992-2855