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**For Immediate Release: CITY CUTS TO COMMUNITY CENTRES TARGET  
MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS IN TORONTO**

**Toronto** – Scadding Court Community Centre calls upon all the McGuinty and Harper governments and Toronto City Council to immediately convene a summit to rectify the fiscal crisis in the City of Toronto so that it does not fall on the backs of the most marginalized among us.

Scadding Court Community Centre is located at the intersection of Bathurst and Dundas Streets. The majority of its clients are community members who are economically and socially marginalized due to issues of poverty, newcomer status, race, ability level and more. The list of people who will be directly affected by a Monday closure is long and includes people living with disabilities, at-risk young women, low-income families and their children, newcomers, youth and many more.

*“Research clearly shows that that prevention and early intervention through recreational and social programs reduces long terms costs and results in a healthier society”* says Kevin Lee, Executive Director of Scadding Court. He adds that *“Governments need to stop thinking in four to five years terms for political expediency and need to start the kind of long-term thinking and planning that will ultimately create healthy and sustainable communities.”*

Closing community centres on Mondays contradicts one of the five principles applied to the process of identifying cost containment measures. This principle stated that service level adjustments ought not to affect the most vulnerable. However it is precisely the vulnerable residents in Toronto that heavily use and benefit most from the many services offered by community centres. Relative to other expenditures, the portion of the City’s budget that goes toward these services is very small.

*“If we continue down this road, in ten years time today’s thirteen priority neighbourhoods will have expanded to twenty or thirty”* says Susanne Burkhardt, Director of Development and Community Engagement at the centre. *“Not only will this increase future costs but the deterioration in Toronto’s social fabric will affect all communities and the quality of life in Toronto, Ontario and the country as a whole.”*

The cost containment measures taken by the city represent only one of many possible solutions to this situation. It is time to explore other options.

***For more information please contact:***

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