



2006 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE – Reduction in Heritage Toronto Operating Budget to meet 2% Target

Issue / Background:

The 2006 Proposed Budget for Heritage Toronto is \$41, 400 over the 2006 2% target and they were requested to report back to Budget Advisory Committee identifying options for reductions in order to achieve the 2% target.

Key Points:

- Beginning in 2004, Heritage Toronto has held full responsibility for the preparation and presentation of its annual operating budget request.
- Heritage Toronto has had to cover COLA as well as benefit adjustments from its self-generated revenues (donations, sponsorships and program revenues).
- The re-introduction of the OMERS contribution at a higher than anticipated level plus significant rises in employee group benefit health benefit premiums are the two major contributory factors to the pressure exerted on the agency's financial resources.
- One factor in the issue is the assumption of the heritage plaque and marker program for the City by Heritage Toronto. This program was the last remaining outstanding service to be restored to the people of Toronto after the amalgamation and reorganization of Toronto's heritage services.

In order to move towards the 2% target Heritage Toronto proposes the following:

1. \$4,000 reduction in printing of Heritage Toronto Awards materials by using electronic media for distribution of nomination material for one of five categories
2. \$5,000 reduction in printing materials for Doors Open program
3. \$2,000 reduction in printing and distribution of new membership solicitation brochure
4. \$1,000 reduction in Board expenses by suspending the annual December volunteer/donor/sponsor reception.
5. \$4,500 reduction in Postage costs by utilizing electronic distribution for information distribution
6. \$4,500 reduction in Walking Tours program planned improvements.

Savings on projected expenditures of \$21,000.

Heritage Toronto staff are preparing various new revenue producing initiatives to meet future pressures on the agency's budget in consultation with Finance Division staff as we are keen to respect the 0% ceiling identified for 2007 and ensuing years.

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