
2006 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE – Implementation of Seniors Recreation Strategy

Issue/Background:

- Economic Development and Parks Committee recommended that the Seniors Recreation Strategy be forwarded to the Provincial and Federal governments for consideration, including financial and joint partnerships considerations.
- Economic Development and Parks Committee recommended that Parks, Forestry and Recreation be requested, as part of the implementation of the strategy, to appoint a staff person specifically responsible for the Seniors Recreation Strategy.
- Council approved the Seniors Recreation Strategy at its meeting on October 26, 27, 28 and 31, 2005, including the adoption of the above-mentioned recommendations.
- At its meeting on January 16, 2006, Economic Development and Parks Committee requested that the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation report to Budget Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Seniors Recreation Strategy within the 2006 Operating Budget and identifying areas for improvement or additional focus before the 2007 budget discussions.

Key Points:

- By the year 2021, Toronto's senior population, aged 65 and over, is expected to increase by 22 percent. As part of Parks, Forestry and Recreation's Strategic Plan, Our Common Grounds, a target of a 40 percent increase in seniors' participation in city recreation programs by 2010 was established.
 - In order to meet this target, the Seniors' Recreation Strategy identifies actions and recommendations under the following four key issue areas: Access, Program and Service Delivery, Communication, and Staff and Volunteer Resources.
 - The implementation of these actions and recommendations will be guided by the development of a future Implementation Strategy and will be phased in, pending availability of financial and staffing resources.
 - The development of an Implementation Strategy will be undertaken by Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff following the transition to the new Divisional organizational structure (February 2006).
 - In 2006, Staff will consult with seniors, seniors' organizations, as well as the Seniors Roundtable, on the development of the Implementation Strategy, including staffing and financial resources.
 - After the consultation process, the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation will report on the Implementation Strategy to the Economic Development and Parks Committee prior to the 2007 Operating Budget process.
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Conclusion:

- There will not be a financial impact to the 2006 Operating Budget for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division for the development of the Implementation Strategy.
- There will be a financial impact to the 2007 Operating Budget for the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division after staff report on the Implementation Strategy of the Seniors Recreation Strategy.

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