

Economic Development, Culture & Tourism Program Review

Councillor Reference Group (CRG)

Background:

Program Reviews are guided by the framework approved by City Council in June 2006. The framework prescribes various requirements including a detailed Terms of Reference, a communications plan, consultation with Unions and COTAPSAI, and a governance/approval process.

The full scale EDCT Program Review will be conducted within the context of several related initiatives, including the Mayor's Economic Competitiveness Advisory Committee, the Interdivisional Economic Growth Team, the Creative Cities implementation strategy and the preparation of a new Economic Competitiveness Strategy for the City.

A draft Terms of Reference has been developed and is currently under review by the Corporate Oversight Team, the Unions and COTAPSAI. The draft will be presented to the Executive Steering Committee, led by the City Manager and Deputy City Managers on February 26th.

Program Review Objectives:

The objectives of the Review are:

- to ensure that EDCT moves forward to implement the economic/cultural agenda needed for Toronto's continued prosperity and growth as articulated by the Mayor and Council, and as outlined in the new Economic Competitiveness Strategy currently under development;
- to assess the effectiveness and relevance of EDCT's mandate, priorities, structure and activities in a changing global environment where creativity and innovation are key drivers of successful urban economies; and
- to make recommendations for change and propose steps for implementation to improve the effectiveness, relevance and efficiency of the division's activities and to arrive at the best fit of divisional vision, goals, policies and actions.

Role of the Council Reference Group:

To act as a sounding board at three key points in the Review Process:

Meeting 1: Briefing on the Terms of Reference and overview of the critical path

Meeting 2: Mid point review of preliminary findings including: internal and external stakeholder consultations, best practices review, directions from competitiveness strategy work and creative cities implementation plan

Meeting 3: Input on options for changes in directions, priorities and functional alignment