

Ref: 2007-07-M37

May 1, 2007

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

City Council on April 23 and 24, 2007, referred the following Motion to the Executive Committee:

M37 Provincial Uploading to be a “Council Mandate”

Moved by Councillor Minnan-Wong, seconded by Councillor Stintz

SUMMARY:

The downloading of services by previous Provincial governments of Ontario has contributed to the City of Toronto’s inability to provide efficient services to the people of Toronto.

The assumption or “uploading” of these services would resolve some of the City’s budget challenges and assist in the City’s efforts to sustain and improve the services it provides. This would eliminate the need to continually ask the province for bailouts every budget year and would also provide clarity and transparency to our budget process.

The recent provincial budget failed to address the issue of uploading.

Establishing a campaign to upload some specific services that are currently funded by municipalities is consistent with the principle of accountable and transparent government, in which the order of government that collects the taxes is also responsible for its service delivery.

Uploading has broad support in the public and recently found wider support from the Board of Trade and the participants of the Toronto City Summit Alliance.

...2/

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Toronto City Council establish, as a Council Mandate, a campaign to successfully lobby the Provincial government of Ontario to assume the over \$500 million downloaded to the City of Toronto by previous governments.
2. That a Committee of Councillors and staff be assembled to develop a campaign strategy to be introduced immediately and continue throughout 2007.
3. That the City approach other municipal stakeholders, like the Toronto Board of Trade, the Toronto City Summit Alliance and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, to participate in this campaign.

Council also considered the following:

- Financial Impact Statement (April 23, 2007) from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd

Attachment