



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Ratification of the Canada-Ontario-Toronto Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Immigration and Settlement

Date:	December 18, 2006
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Shirley Hoy, City Manager
Wards:	Citywide.
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

On September 29th, 2006 the Mayor signed a Canada-Ontario-Toronto Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on behalf of the City of Toronto that provides for tri-level collaboration on immigration and settlement, subject to ratification by City Council. The federal and provincial signatories were Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Canada Monte Solberg and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mike Colle respectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

- (1) Council ratify the Memorandum of Understanding between Her Majesty in Right of Canada (“Canada”), Her Majesty in Right of the Province of Ontario (“Ontario”), and the City of Toronto (“Toronto”) dated the 29th day of September, 2006 which provides the framework for formalized discussions between the three governments with respect to immigration and settlement issues in Toronto; and
- (2) the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take all necessary actions to give effect thereto.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

In 2001 Council adopted an Immigration and Settlement Policy Framework. The framework recommends that the City secure formal representation at federal and provincial discussions about immigration and settlement. This Canada-Ontario-Toronto Memorandum of Understanding achieves this goal.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the provincial and federal governments to formalize a collaborative partnership on immigration and settlement issues that affect Toronto. This MOU is pursuant to the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Immigration signed in November 2005, which recognizes that the City of Toronto is to be formally consulted on immigration issues.

COMMENTS

The City's intergovernmental agenda focuses on achieving improvements to the City's legislative and fiscal relationships with the provincial and federal governments and facilitating effective, empowered partnerships. This MOU represents significant progress on the partnership agenda. It is an example of how the City of Toronto can gain a stronger voice on issues that affect the City, and an opportunity to help develop "made-for-Toronto" policies regarding immigration.

The MOU's focus is on four priority areas:

- access to employment
- access to services
- access to education and training, and
- citizenship and engagement.

An MOU Steering Committee, comprising the City Manager and the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI), was created to discuss Toronto-specific immigration issues and oversee the implementation of the MOU.

In addition, the MOU provides the City a seat at each of the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement working groups on language training and settlement. This allows the City to provide direct input into future policies and programs and learn of any changes that might affect City services.

The MOU is not a funding agreement. It is a partnership agreement that permits collaboration on research and policy and program development as well the identification of possible local joint initiatives. The Canada-Ontario Agreement on Immigration deals with the funding formula respecting the federal and provincial governments' roles in language training and settlement services.

CONTACT

Sherrí Hanley
Corporate Management & Policy Consultant
416-392-1086, shanley@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Shirley Hoy
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Canada-Ontario- Toronto Memorandum of Understanding on Immigration and Settlement www.toronto.ca/immigration/pdf/mou_on_immigration.pdf