

## **Establishment of a Reserve Fund for the Purpose of Funding a Senior's Exchange Program between Toronto, Ontario and Paris, France**

<b>Date:</b>	October 20, 2008
<b>To:</b>	Budget Committee
<b>From:</b>	Acting Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer
<b>Wards:</b>	All
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2008\Internal Services\FP\Bc08016Fp (AFS#8651)

### **SUMMARY**

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This report responds to a referral from Executive Committee of a communication from the French Committee of Toronto. The French Committee communication requested authority to establish a reserve fund using \$10,000 of funding from its 2008 approved Operating Budget and \$10,000 from its 2009 Operating Budget for the purpose of funding a senior's exchange program between Toronto, Ontario and Paris, France.

This report does not recommend establishing a reserve fund for the purpose of funding a senior's exchange program.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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**The Acting Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer recommends that:**

1. Authority not be granted to establish a reserve fund using \$10,000 from the French Committee's 2008 and \$10,000 from its 2009 Operating Budgets for the purpose of funding a senior's exchange program between Toronto, Ontario and Paris, France.

### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact as a result of this report.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The Executive Committee at its meeting on October 6, 2008 considered a communication from the President of the City of Toronto French Committee requesting authority to establish a reserve fund using \$10,000 from their 2008 and 2009 Operating Budgets, respectively. The Executive Committee referred the request to the Acting Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer for a report to Executive Committee through the Budget Committee.

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ex/comm/communicationfile-8572.pdf>

## **COMMENTS**

### **1. Background of the French Committee**

The City of Toronto French Committee was first established in 1981 by the former City of Toronto and re-established by City Council for the amalgamated City at its meeting in March 1999.

The French Committee's mandate is to:

- promote the development and identity of Toronto's francophone community;
- promote Francophone interests at City Council;
- encourage Francophone participation on different municipal committees;
- increase the number and quality of French-language services offered by the City;
- facilitate links between City Council, the Community Councils and Francophone taxpayers; and
- be fully integrated into the consultative and decision-making structure of the City.

The French Committee is comprised of 15 members appointed by City Council including 13 citizen members of the Francophone community of Toronto and 2 City Councillors. Councillor Giambrone is the current member of Council appointed to the French Committee.

### **2. Annual Operating Budget**

The French Committee has an annual operating budget of \$20,000 to cover committee related expenses including the services of a bilingual secretary to support the Committee; advertising and promotion in French language publications; maintenance of a French language website; and other miscellaneous meeting expenses.

The Committee's annual expenditures from 2002 to 2007 are provided in the table below.

Year	Total Annual Expenditures
2002	\$20,102
2003	\$20,143
2004	\$17,515
2005	\$18,356
2006	\$18,515
2007	\$20,165

### **3. Seniors Exchange Program between Toronto, Ontario and Paris, France**

The French Committee of Toronto has requested authority to establish a reserve fund using \$10,000 from their 2008 approved Operating Budget and \$10,000 from their forthcoming 2009 Operating Budget to provide funding for a senior's exchange program between Toronto, Ontario and Paris, France. The senior's exchange is being organized by two community organizations, (Les Centres d'Accueil Heritage de Toronto and Les Petits Freres des Pauvres de Paris) in partnership with the City of Toronto French Committee.

The project involves 22 Toronto seniors travelling to Paris, France in May 2009 and 22 Paris seniors travelling to Toronto in October 2009. The intent of the project is to establish new friendships between Toronto and Paris; to review seniors housing and services with a view to recommending service improvements to the appropriate order of government in Canada; and to promote intergenerational relationships between seniors and young people in both countries.

The project budget is \$60,000, approximately \$1,364 per person, to cover costs such as airfare, food, local transportation and educational and cultural activities. The City of Paris will provide in-kind support to cover expenses for food, local transportation and educational, cultural and recreational activities for the Toronto seniors during their ten day stay in Paris.

The \$20,000 requested from the French Committee's combined 2008 and 2009 Operating Budgets will offset some project costs. The French Committee has advised that \$10,000 has been fundraised to-date and the remaining \$30,000 required funding will be raised from the private sector, corporations and other orders of government. There is currently no firm commitment of funding for the remaining \$30,000.

#### **4. Establishment of a Reserve Fund for the Purpose of the Seniors Exchange Program**

Staff have reviewed the French Committee's request to establish a reserve fund using \$10,000 from its 2008 and \$10,000 from its 2009 Operating Budgets to provide funding to a senior's exchange program. Staff do not recommend establishing a reserve fund for this purpose for the following reasons:

- Reserve funds are generally established for long-term initiatives rather than short-term projects.
- The French Committee's operating budget is not intended to fund project-specific costs.
- The French Committee has spent all or a significant portion of their Operating Budget over the last five years. Using monies from their 2008 and 2009 Operating Budgets may reduce the ability of the Committee to carry out its mandated business for the balance of 2008 and in 2009.
- Notwithstanding the City's potential \$20,000 contribution through establishing a reserve fund; an additional \$30,000 is still required and there are currently no firm commitments in place for this funding.
- The outcomes and benefits to the City of Toronto are not clearly defined and the program does not align with Mayor and Council priorities.
- Funding a senior's exchange program for low-income francophone seniors does not align with the mandate of the French Committee of Toronto.
- Jurisdictional comparisons between Paris, France and Toronto, Ontario with regard to seniors housing and health services may have limited application due to structural differences between these two cities. For example, the City of Paris has jurisdiction over a number of areas, such as health care and education; that are a Provincial responsibility in Ontario.

The French Committee of Toronto plays an important role in promoting the identity of Toronto's francophone community through a variety of activities and initiatives. The French Committee's proposal to establish a reserve fund for the purpose of providing funding to a senior's exchange program between Toronto, Ontario and Paris, France was recommended with the best of intentions. However, staff are not able to support the establishment of a reserve fund using half of the Committee's operating funding in 2008 and 2009 for this purpose.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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