



ADAM GIAMBRONE

City Councillor **Ward 18-Davenport** • Chair **Toronto Transit Commission**

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23 October 2008

Merle MacDonald
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
10th floor, West Tower
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Budget Committee Members:

Re: Item BU36.11—Establishment of a Reserve Fund for the Purpose of Funding a Senior's Exchange Program between Toronto, Ontario and Paris, France

I am writing to you as Council's appointed representative to the City of Toronto French Committee to clarify the reasons why the French Committee thought it was necessary to bring this issue to your attention today.

The City of Toronto French Committee was created in 1981 as a vital communication and advocacy channel between municipal government and the Toronto French community. Since its inception, this committee has been integral in promoting the francophone community's interests and improving the quality of services accessed by this community.

This proposed low-income senior's exchange and policy research project has been received with enormous interest within our francophone community. Nearly every francophone organization and institution with our city has contributed some funding to provide the initial \$10,000 that has been raised so far for the project. The City of Paris has also been keenly interested in the project and has committed to in-kind support by providing lodging and meals for the seniors and organizing educational workshops about their senior's services.

The Toronto French Committee submitted this issue to the Executive Committee, which has now been referred to Budget, because they are seeking approval for a financial mechanism that will allow them to expend \$10,000 of their existing budget in each of 2008 and 2009 to support this important project. A reserve fund mechanism has been suggested as one way this might be achieved; however,

perhaps the Budget Committee will be able to identify another mechanism that accomplishes the same goals.

It is important to emphasize that the French Committee's request and their approach to this issue will result in zero dollars in new expenditures for the City, in both 2008 and 2009, as the funding is essentially only being reallocated within the French Committee's existing operating budget envelope.

As a funding allocation request, clearly it falls to the Budget Committee to make a recommendation on this issue. As you know, the Executive Committee will also be reviewing your recommendation at their next meeting. I hope that this letter has provided insight into these issues and will help you make an informed decision that is appropriate for both the City and this important constituency that we all serve.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam Giambrone', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Adam Giambrone
Toronto City Councillor
Ward 18—Davenport
Chair, Toronto Transit Commission