

**NOTICE OF MOTION****Support for Cricket Across the Pond**

**Moved by:** Councillor Vaughan

**Seconded by:** Councillor Mihevc

**SUMMARY:**

Since 2005, Parks, Forestry and Recreation has addressed the diverse recreational needs of Toronto's young people by promoting the sport of cricket and by working with the leadership of school boards, associations and corporate partners to dedicate the appropriate staff and financial resources to support the initiatives of leadership, diversity and healthy lifestyles amongst Toronto's neighbourhoods. As the fastest growing sport in Canada, cricket can be used as a vehicle to engage residents and foster self-esteem and community development. According to Statistics Canada, there was a 32% increase in immigrant population from cricket-playing nations during 1996-2001.

Most recently, one of the first after-school cricket programs for ages 6 to 12 years was introduced to the Jimmie Simpson community as a pilot project with a view to developing more opportunities throughout the city. Over 200 children and youth will participate in the game, through Parks, Forestry and Recreation and other local cricket leagues.

This year Parks, Forestry and Recreation will partner with CIMA Canada to develop the Cricket Across the Pond initiative, as an extension of the annual Mayor's Cup which has brought together Corporate sponsors, city staff and the larger cricket community each June since 2005.

This opportunity will bring 12 young people from across Toronto, to participate in an exchange program where they will learn and strengthen their cricket skills, interact with their UK counterparts and proudly represent Toronto in the city of Kingston Upon Thames.

The costs of this initiative are being funded by the Royal Bank of Canada, Air Transat and CIMA Canada and apart from the dedication of in-kind resources, there is no financial cost to the City of Toronto.

This motion is seeking Council's support for this program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That City Council support Parks, Forestry and Recreation in the development of cricket as a vehicle to bring together young people from the diverse communities of Toronto and to develop leadership opportunities for these young people of diverse backgrounds to strengthen their social and physical skills through the game.
2. City Council support the objectives of the Cricket Across the Pond initiative when young people will be selected from neighborhoods across Toronto to participate in a cricket tournament as ambassadors to Kingston on Thames for two weeks beginning on August 14, 2008.
3. City Council express its appreciation to CIMA Canada, The Royal Bank of Canada and other corporate sponsors for working successfully with Parks, Forestry and Recreation in securing the necessary corporate sponsorship for this cricket tour at no cost to the City of Toronto.

May 26, 2008

**According to Chapter 27, Council Procedures:**

Notice given	(v)
Fiscal Impact Statement provided	
Should have Fiscal Impact Statement prior to debate Requires two-thirds to waive requirement if Council wishes to debate	*
Should be referred to Community Development and Recreation Committee Requires two-thirds vote to consider at this meeting	(v)
Motion Recommendations are Urgent	

\* Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to advise.