



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Ratification of the Toronto-Ontario Agreement on Cooperation and Consultation

Date:	January 22, 2008
To:	Executive Committee
From:	Shirley Hoy, City Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report recommends Council’s ratification of a Toronto-Ontario Cooperation and Consultation Agreement (the “Agreement”) (Attachment A) that will strengthen the ongoing working relationship between the City and Ontario, as provided in the *City of Toronto Act, 2006 (COTA)*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that Council:

1. ratify the Agreement on Cooperation and Consultation between the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario dated January 15, 2008 which provides a framework for ongoing discussions and cooperation between the two governments about matters of mutual interest, as provided in the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*.
2. authorize and direct the appropriate City Officials to take all necessary actions to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

This agreement is a standalone agreement that is not tied to specific funding arrangements. There are no financial impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

Equity Statement

The Agreement will strengthen Toronto-Ontario cooperation and consultation on matters of mutual interest, including equity.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The *City of Toronto Act, 2006* was proclaimed on January 1, 2007. The Agreement implements s.1(3) of the Act, which prescribes that "...it is in the interests of the Province and the City to engage in ongoing consultations with each other about matters of mutual interest and to do so in accordance with an agreement...". On January 15, 2008, Mayor Miller signed the Agreement on behalf of the City, subject to Council's ratification, along with the Honourable Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, on behalf of the Province.

COMMENTS

The City's intergovernmental agenda focuses on achieving improvements in its legislative and fiscal relationships with the other orders of government and facilitating effective, empowered partnerships. This Agreement represents significant progress on this agenda by formalizing Toronto-Ontario government-to-government relations and strengthening the ongoing working relationship between the respective governments and their dealings with other governments and stakeholders.

Building on the principles of mutual respect and cooperation prescribed in COTA, under the Agreement the Province and the City commit to consult with each other on:

- any proposed change in legislation, regulation, resolution or by-law that will have a significant financial or policy impact on the other party.
- broad policy matters of mutual interest.
- proposed agreements with the Government of Canada or other governments on matters that have mutual impact.
- initiatives with other governments or stakeholders, as the parties deem appropriate.

Specified exclusions include emergency situations, matters in the Provincial budget and related papers, Federal-Provincial First Ministers meetings and meetings and negotiations of municipal organizations and alliances.

The Agreement will guide Provincial ministries and City divisions in exchanging information and will build on existing cooperative practices. The Agreement also provides a framework for the Province and the City to meet more proactively on matters of mutual interest.

In implementing this Agreement, the City and Province expect:

- more regular, standardized contact between elected and staff officials.

- earlier, more consistent and substantive consultation, leading to more informed policy development, service planning and decision-making.
- better alignment of priorities and improved coordination in achieving mutual objectives, while respecting each other's jurisdiction and authority.
- more informed consideration of each other's interests and opportunities for direct participation when parties deal with the federal and other governments and with stakeholders.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Shirley Hoy
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

A. Toronto-Ontario Agreement on Cooperation and Consultation, January 15, 2008
http://www.toronto.ca/city_council/cooperation-consultation-agreement.htm