

**Association of Francophone Municipalities of Ontario
(AFMO) – Membership Fee Increase**

Date:	August 6, 2008
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Manager
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

L'Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario/the Association of Francophone Municipalities of Ontario (AFMO) has adopted changes to its formula for calculating membership fees. The new formula results in an increase in Toronto's annual membership fee from \$2,900 to \$15,000. It is understood that this is a one-time change and that the membership fee will be stable in future years. This report explains the organization's rationale for the changes and recommends that the City of Toronto continue its membership in AFMO at the new fee level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. the City of Toronto continue its formal membership in the Association of Francophone Municipalities of Ontario.

Financial Impact

The annual fee for the City of Toronto's membership in AFMO is \$15,000.00 in 2008-9 (reflects the province's fiscal year). The membership fee is based on a formula that reflects each member's population. The membership fee is expected to remain stable in coming years, with any adjustments related only to cost of living or population changes. Funds will be absorbed from within the Council General Expense Budget in the City Council 2008 Approved Operating Budget. The 2009 and future year operating budgets will provide for the AFMO membership fee.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact statement.

Equity Statement

Toronto's membership in AFMO complements Council's Policy on Multilingual Services (Administration Committee Report 2(4) adopted by Council February 13-15, 2002), which includes explicit provisions for French language service delivery. AFMO promotes the management and delivery of services at the municipal level in both English and French. The association is committed to working with both the federal and provincial governments in the development of a range of linguistic and support tools to assist elected councils and managers to deliver programs and services in both official languages. AFMO is the only provincial municipal association created to address linguistic duality at the municipal level pursuant to the *Official Languages Act* of Canada and the *French Language Services Act* of Ontario.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held July 19-26, 2005 City Council adopted Policy and Finance Committee Report 7(12), which formalised the City's membership in AFMO (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2005/agendas/council/cc050719/pof7rpt/cl012.pdf>). The Council decision authorized the City to pay membership dues in the amount of \$2,900 per annum. Council has appointed Councillor Giambrone as its representative at AFMO.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

AFMO's board of directors has revised the formula for calculating membership fees. The new formula has resulted in an increase in Toronto's membership fee from \$2,900 in 2007-8 to \$15,000 in 2008-9. As this represents a more than fivefold increase, a Council decision is needed to continue membership at the new fee level.

COMMENTS

AFMO was experiencing severe budget shortfalls under its old fee structure. AFMO's board of directors also saw a need to rationalize the fee structure so that it would be fairer to all members. The previous formula for calculating membership fees was based on the percentage of Francophones residing in a municipality. This led to a situation where

some very small communities were paying much higher membership fees than large cities. For example, under the old structure, Prescott/Russell with a population of 77,000 was paying \$5,000 per annum, approximately 65 percent more than Toronto's fee of \$2,900, even though Toronto's population is more than 30 times larger than Prescott/Russell's population. There were also disparities between the fees paid by the largest cities in the province. Under the old formula, the City of Ottawa was already paying \$15,000 per annum, roughly five times as much as Toronto. Under the new formula, the membership fee is transparently related to population size. The highest fee under the new formula - \$15,000 – is paid by members with a population greater than 500,000.

It is recommended that the City of Toronto continue its membership in the Association of Francophone Municipalities of Ontario.

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SIGNATURE

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