

**Ref: 2008-M20.18**

May 7, 2008

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

City Council on April 28 and 29, 2008, referred the following Motion to the Executive Committee:

**M20.18 Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario's Inquiry Into Support for Changes to the Labour Relations Act, 1995**  
*Moved by Councillor Stintz, seconded by Councillor Ootes***SUMMARY:**

On September 26, 2007, City Council referred to the Executive Committee a motion requesting that Shirley Hoy write a letter to "the Province of Ontario in support of the City of Hamilton advocating the Province to make the necessary changes to the Labour Relations Act, 1995, Section 126, by defining municipalities as non-construction employers."

At its October 29, 2007 meeting, on motion by Mayor Miller, the Executive Committee:

1. Noted and filed the Member Motion by Councillor Stintz, seconded by Councillor Ootes, until the Provincial Government undertakes a review of the construction industry and the rights of construction workers to join a trade union of their choice; and
2. Requested the City Manager to submit an information report to the Executive Committee respecting the cost of construction contracts, including a breakdown of labour costs, union/non-union, the value of training and any legal issues.

The aforesaid report has yet to be submitted to Executive Committee.

On November 16, 2007 the meeting of the Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO), which is composed of mayors from municipalities with a population of 100,000 or more, received a presentation from the City of Hamilton on the Labour Relations Act (see Attachment 1). The City of Hamilton also requested LUMCO's support in advocating that the Province amend the *Act*. The Chair of LUMCO, Mayor Hazel McCallion, requested through email, that each member municipality review the City of Hamilton's request and indicate their position by December 7, 2007 (see Attachment 2).

The City of Toronto responded that it is not in support of the requested change to the Labour Relations Act, without the benefit of the staff report requested by Mayor Miller (see Attachment 3). The predominance of responses to date from LUMCO municipalities are in support of the requested change (see Attachment 4). The City of Oshawa is one such municipality (see Attachment 5).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The City Manager provide a report to Council on the City of Toronto's position on this request; including confirmation that the City Manager had legislative authority to provide LUMCO with the City's policy position in the absence of Council's direction.
2. The City Manager report why a negative response to this request was provided in the absence of the staff report requested by Mayor Miller.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/cd

Attachs.