
City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

MM30.4	ACTION			Ward: All
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Requesting the Province to Proclaim Hispanic Heritage Month - Moved by Councillor Palacio, seconded by Mayor Miller

- Notice of this Motion has been given.*
- This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

1. That the City of Toronto formally request the Province of Ontario to proclaim "Hispanic Heritage Month" in 2009 for the entire Province.

Summary

The Hispanic population in Toronto is among the fastest growing ethnic groups in the City, representing over 21 countries across two continents. Several ethnic groups are recognized by the City annually with their own Heritage or Cultural Month, including South Asian Heritage Month, Black History Month and Irish Heritage and Cultural Appreciation Month, and Portuguese Month in June. Hispanic Heritage Month will be proclaimed by the City in 2009, and this motion requests the Province to follow Toronto's lead.

Hispanic Heritage Month would give Torontonians and Ontarians as a whole an opportunity to celebrate, enjoy and experience the rich heritage of Canada's Hispanic cultures. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the many outstanding contributions Hispanics have made to Canadian society. Several large events take place annually throughout the City and the Province and this recognition of their social, cultural and economic success would compliment them.

The City of Toronto has a formal Friendship Agreement with the City of Quito, Ecuador, and this proclamation is very much in keeping with that agreement. The concept of a Hispanic Heritage Month is supported, in principle, by the Hispanic Development Council, Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples, Canadian Hispanic Congress, Toronto Catholic District School Board and a large number of Hispanic community leaders and community organizations.

On July 3, 2008 Councillor Palacio met with the Honourable Peter Fonseca, then Minister of Culture and Tourism, and proposed that Toronto City Council pass a resolution asking the Province to also issue a proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month.

