



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Update on Service Canada Funding for the Youth Employment Toronto (YET) and Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC) Programs

Date:	January 16, 2009
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

To seek authorization to renew agreements with Service Canada for the Youth Employment Toronto (YET) and Toronto Youth Job Corps programs for an amount of up to \$2,000,000 in federal contributions and \$373,146 net, for a total gross amount of \$2,373,146.

The YET and TYJC programs are on-going cost shared programs. The YET program provides a city wide mobile employment assessment, referral and case management service and the TYJC program provides an intensive six week pre-employment preparation and 16 to 24 week subsidized job placements. Those served by the two programs are unemployed and out of school youth, 16 to 29 years of age who are experiencing barriers in gaining access to employment or other vocational related opportunities. The current contracts for these programs end on March 31, 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division recommends that:

1. the Acting Executive Director, be authorized to sign renewal agreements for the YET program for up to \$413,726 in revenue and \$147,693 in net costs and for the TYJC program for up to \$1,586,274 in revenue and \$225,453 in net costs with

annual budget commitments dependant on City and federal budget approval processes; and

2. the appropriate City Officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

- (a) the total additional revenues related to the agreement to be signed with Service Canada for the YET and TYJC programs will be up to an amount of \$2,000,000 with a net impact of \$373,146 in the operating funds for 2009;
- (b) there will be program budget increases over last year related to program staff costs and transportation costs for youth supported by the program. These increases are consistent with previous years and will be absorbed within the Community Resources Section with no net impact on the Divisional budget.

2009	YET Program	TYJC Program
Gross	—\$ 561,419	—\$ 1,811,727
Revenue	—\$ 413,726	—\$ 1,586,274
Net	—\$ 147,693	—\$ 225,453

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer have reviewed this report and agree with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY ISSUE BACKGROUND

Authorization is required now to enter into an agreement for the Youth Employment Toronto (YET) and Toronto Youth Job Corps (TYJC) programs.

The YET and TYJC programs are on-going programs in their 25th year of operation and have a current contract that ends on March 31, 2009. Negotiations for the agreement have begun for a start date of April 1, 2009.

COMMENTS

The purpose of the YET program is to provide a mobile employment service to youth who have difficulty accessing services and resources in order to attach themselves to the labour market. This program employs six specialized employment workers who cover different geographic locations throughout the city.

The YET workers actively reach out to youth in the most appropriate locations in the community such as malls, hostels, housing complexes, youth drop-in centres, etc. The program serves youth aged 16-29 who are out of school and unemployed. Youth are

provided a variety of supports ranging from employment assessment, career planning and counselling as well as referrals to employment services, skill development programs and educational opportunities. The staff take a holistic approach and also assist youth in dealing with other issues that will get in the way of their employability by linking them to resources such as housing, substance use treatment, legal advice etc. The program will serve a target number of 950 youth this year.

The YET staff have been very effective at supporting youth with these interventions. The final program outcomes were met in the previous contract period of 2007 (2008/09 final report not yet available). In total 511 youth found employment, obtained training or returned to school. Detailed performance statistics for the YET program during the 2007 agreement period can be found below:

Youth Employment Toronto 2007: Program Activity	Outcomes
1. Youth Provided with Employment Assessments	1,285*
2. Referrals Made to Employment Supports Youth Attended	1,231
3. Youth Who Received Case Management Support	914
4. Youth who have Entered Education and Training Options	185
5. Youth Who Participated in Pre-Employment Programs	107
6. Youth Who Found Employment	390
7. Youth Who Continued to Receive Support into 2008	20
8. Total Positive Outcomes (Employment, Education or Training):	575 (+20 carry over clients)

*Exceeded Target

The Toronto Youth Job Corps program is a 22-30 week pre-employment preparation program designed to help “at risk” youth aged 16-29 who are no longer attending school maintain and secure employment through the provision of counselling, life skills workshops, hands-on work experience and a job placement with an employer. The target group for this program are youth with less than a high school education, with little or no work experience and who may also be in the hostel system or in receipt of social assistance.

Since the program’s inception in 1983, TYJC has operated as a partnership between HRSDC, the City, and community-based organizations that deliver the program. The TYJC program is currently delivered by the following three agencies: St. Christopher House in the downtown west end, JVS in the Jane and Finch area, and West Scarborough Neighbourhood Community Centre in the Scarborough area. The TYJC program will serve 156 youth during the course of this year.

During the last contract period of February 2006 to March 2008 a total of 432 youth participated in the program and 280 youth found employment, obtained training or

returned to school. Detailed performance statistics for the TYJC program during the previous agreement period ending March 2008 can be found below:

Toronto Youth Job Corps: Feb. 13, 2006 to March 31, 2008 Contract Program Activity	Outcomes
1. Youth Who Entered the Program	432
2. Youth Who Completed the Program	335
3. Youth who have Entered Education and Training Options Upon Completion	96
5. Youth Who Were Employed Upon Completion	184
6. Total Positive Outcomes	280 (84% of youth who completed the program)

City staff are finalizing negotiations with Service Canada for the 2009/10 TYJC contribution agreement and require Council authority to enter into a new contract prior to March 31, 2009.

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SIGNATURE

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