



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Authorization to Receive an Operating Subsidy from the YMCA of Greater Toronto

Date:	June 24, 2010
To:	City Council
From:	Cam Weldon, Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer
Wards:	Wards 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster A\PFR\CC51-070610-AFS#12459

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to obtain authorization for the City of Toronto to enter into agreement with and accept an operating subsidy from the YMCA of Greater Toronto for the purpose of subsidizing wages and providing additional employment opportunities to youth in Scarborough as part of the YMCA's Summer Job Services Program. The objective of this program is to provide students with valuable work experience by encouraging employers to hire additional or under-qualified staff through the wage subsidy program. The subsidy program provides remuneration to employers based on eligibility requirements.

The acceptance of the recommendations contained in this report will amend the 2010 Operating Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to increase the Summer Camp Program for Scarborough District by \$150,000 fully funded by an operating subsidy from YMCA of Greater Toronto. This will expand the number of students hired for summer employment and increase the number of recreation opportunities available to local children and youth. Extreme gratitude is extended to the YMCA of Greater Toronto for their generous contribution and support of recreation programming in Scarborough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer recommends that City Council:

1. authorize Parks, Forestry and Recreation to enter into agreement with the YMCA of Greater Toronto as a participating employer in the Summer Jobs Services Program;

2. authorize Parks, Forestry and Recreation to receive the operating subsidy offered through the YMCA of Greater Toronto in the amount of \$2 per hour of employment up to a maximum of \$1,408 for students who meet the eligibility requirements employed in Parks, Forestry and Recreation's Summer Camp Program in the Scarborough District;
3. amend the 2010 Operating Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to increase the Summer Camp Program for Scarborough District by \$150,000 from \$2,283,035 to \$2,433,035 fully funded by an operating subsidy from YMCA of Greater Toronto; and
4. authorize Parks, Forestry and Recreation to spend the additional funds provided through the Summer Job Service Program to hire additional summer staff.

Financial Impact

The adoption of recommendations in this report will amend the 2010 Operating Budget for Parks, Forestry and Recreation to increase the Summer Camp Program for Scarborough District by \$150,000 from \$2,283,035 to \$2,433,035 fully funded by an operating subsidy from YMCA of Greater Toronto. This will allow the City to subsidize the wages of approximately 450 students, which, in turn, will offset associated overhead costs, and encourage the development of additional summer employment opportunities within the Scarborough District.

Repayments to the City of Toronto will be based on required monthly submissions through the YMCA's subsidy claims process.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In spring of 2010, Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff were approached by the Manager of the YMCA Employment and Newcomer Centre, 10 Milner Business Court, Scarborough, regarding participation in the YMCA Summer Job Services Program.

COMMENTS

The operating subsidy will be managed and administered by Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff in the Scarborough District. Program expansion and investment will be determined by the Scarborough District Summer Camp Committee and will be based on identified need and operational requirements. A warm thank you is extended to the YMCA of Greater Toronto for their generous contribution in support of Community Recreation Summer Camps for local children in the Scarborough District.

The objective of the YMCA's Summer Job Services Program is to provide students with valuable work experience. The wage subsidy is equivalent to \$2 per hour of employment

per student up to a maximum of \$1,408 per student for employment between April 1st and September 30th 2010. To be eligible for the subsidy, youth must be between 15 and 30 years of age, returning to school in the fall of 2010, eligible to work in Canada, not currently working for the employer applying for subsidy (unless the student's hours increase for the summer), and are not hired by a person they are related to.

The Parks, Forestry, and Recreation Summer Camp Program in Scarborough employs approximately 450 students per year and would be eligible to receive an estimated wage subsidy of \$150,000. The subsidy would be used to offset the overhead expenses associated with the operation of summer camps and to provide additional opportunities for summer employment within the Scarborough District. The creation of additional employment opportunities will in turn increase opportunities for participation in summer programs for children and youth in the Scarborough District. The subsidy would afford Parks, Forestry and Recreation the opportunity to expand adapted and integrated program offerings for people with disabilities, in addition to the reallocation of additional funding from the current operating budget to areas where program demand surpasses availability. Program expansion could include summer camps and programs, programs and support workers for children and youth with disabilities, and the hiring of additional staff to provide specialized programming on a rotating basis throughout the Scarborough District.

Funding for the YMCA's Summer Job Services program has been provided by the government and the YMCA is required to collect on behalf of the government, information that assists government to measure results, to evaluate the success of the program, and to meet government obligation of accountability. To this end, subsidy claims are required to be submitted monthly to the YMCA by Parks, Forestry and Recreation and would include proof of wage payment to the employee as well as a record of deductions and hours worked. Information collected by the YMCA on behalf of the government is protected under Canada's Privacy Act or applicable provincial or municipal privacy law.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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