



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Authority to Enter into a Trustee Agreement with Toronto Council of Educators

Date:	January 6, 2011
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request delegated authority for the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to enter into a trustee agreement with the Toronto Council of Educators (TCE), and to enter into agreements with TCE funders.

The Toronto Council of Educators is comprised of representatives from all of the public post-secondary institutions in Toronto, the two main Toronto school boards, and community-based organizations that focus on youth educational attainment. TCE works to improve access to post-secondary education for marginalized youth, and its operations are entirely supported by funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, TD Canada Trust, and by in-kind donations from its members.

Post-secondary education has a significant impact on the ability of youth to secure meaningful, well-paid employment and contribute to the economic life of Toronto. As trustee for the TCE, the City has an opportunity to increase the ability of youth to help build a vibrant local and international economy. Because the TCE's activities are fully funded by the Province and the private sector, the City can take advantage of this opportunity with the provision of minimal supports to the organization.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration recommends:

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to execute agreements on behalf of the City with the Toronto Council

of Educators (represented by Humber College), the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and TD Canada Trust. These agreements shall be subject to the parameters set out in the body of this report and such other terms and conditions satisfactory to the Executive Director, and be in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

2. City Council authorize the receipt of \$221,280.00 in 2011 from the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and TD Canada Trust by the City on behalf of the Toronto Council of Educators, and that in its capacity as trustee, the dispersal of these funds under the direction of the Toronto Council of Educators and consistent with the requirements of TCE's funders and the City's trustee agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The adoption of this report and its recommendations will result in an one-time total increase of up to \$350,000.00 gross and \$0 net over two years to the Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) budget. The SDFA budget will be increased by \$221,280.00 gross, \$0 net in 2011, and \$128,720.00 gross, \$0 net in 2012.

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

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In recent years, numerous local, provincial, national and international reports have consistently identified the importance of ensuring youth access to post-secondary education. This education benefits youth directly, but it also impacts the long-term success of their families, communities and the success of the city as a whole.

Not all youth in Toronto are equally able to access post-secondary education. Many marginalized youth face barriers to education, including a lack of financial resources, and the lack of a family history of post-secondary education. Unless marginalized youth are provided with supports that help them access post-secondary education, their future economic prospects are poor, and their potential contribution to the economic life of the city will not be realized.

To further its economic and social development goals, the City has worked closely with educational, community and private sector partners to enhance youth access to post-secondary education. As a part of this work, the City hosted a consultation in August of 2008 for representatives from Toronto colleges, universities, school boards, community organizations and the private sector. Consultation participants were invited to identify the actions required to ensure that marginalized youth access the post-secondary education required for long term success.

The consultation identified key issues that would need to be addressed to create a coherent, effective system of supports for marginalized youth:

- the path to post-secondary education can be a complex maze and difficult to navigate, particularly for marginalized youth;
- educational institutions tend to work in isolation when developing and delivering programs, often times unaware of the "best practices" of others and unnecessarily spending time and resources "reinventing the wheel" to assist youth access post-secondary education;
- there is no clearinghouse available to allow for the analysis of these supports as a broader system; and
- there is no systematic approach to identifying gaps in services or opportunities for improvement across programs and services.

Participants concluded that schools, colleges, universities and community organizations needed a coherent and coordinated cross-institutional plan to ensure that youth access post-secondary education. To realize this plan, the formation of a "Toronto Council of Educators" (TCE) with a small staff secretariat consisting of one Project Manager and one Project Assistant was recommended.

With the support of City staff, a planning group developed the TCE mandate, membership and external funding relationships. Under its Terms of Reference, the TCE is specifically mandated to "develop and implement a collaborative and coordinated approach among educational institutions to enhance access to post-secondary education for marginalized youth."

The Toronto Council of Educators was subsequently formed, and is comprised of representatives from all of the public post-secondary institutions in Toronto, the two main Toronto school boards, and community-based organizations that focus on youth educational attainment. Member organizations include:

- Toronto Post-Secondary Institutions:
 - Boreal College
 - Centennial College
 - George Brown College
 - Humber College
 - OCAD University
 - Ryerson University
 - Seneca College
 - University of Toronto
 - York University
- Toronto District School Board and Toronto Catholic District School Board
- Organized labour representatives, including Labour Community Services and the Ontario Federation of Labour
- United Way of Toronto's Community of Practice on Youth Educational Attainment Partnerships.

The TCE has actively pursued the funding required to support its work, and has secured commitments from the Ontario Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities and TD Canada Trust totalling \$350,000 over a two-year period.

As an unincorporated organization, the Toronto Council of Educators requires a trustee to receive funds on its behalf and dispense them in accordance with its work plan and consistent with the requirements of its funders. In addition, to ensure the TCE remains a the neutral coordinating body envisioned in its mandate, TCE members have determined that a trustee organization outside of the education sector is the best choice to ensure the success of the organization's work.

TCE has reviewed a number of possible trustee organizations and concluded that a trustee relationship with the City would offer benefits to both partners. City staff are in agreement, and have discussed with the TCE ways in which the City's efforts to provide opportunities for marginalized youth could be greatly enhanced with this relationship.

Funding for the Toronto Council of Educators will not be released by their funding partners until a trustee agreement is in place. Consequently, the work of the Toronto Council of Educators is currently delayed.

COMMENTS

The Toronto Council of Educators has been formed with the City's support specifically to achieve greater effectiveness across the range of educational supports already in place for marginalized youth. Its mandate and focus on coordination and collaboration, outreach and access, and research and evaluation, have secured the support of both public and private sector funders, and are consistent with the City's economic and social development goals.

Parameters of Trustee and Funder Agreements

Staff have consulted with Legal Services, Human Resources, and TCE members, and recommend that the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration be delegated authority to enter into a trustee agreement with the TCE and agreements with TCE funders subject to the following parameters:

- The City will not be a formal member of the TCE and will not have a vote in determining operational or funding decisions.
- Both Toronto Council of Educators' members and funders will be required to agree that as trustee for TCE, the City will undertake no responsibility or liability for how the TCE or its secretariat uses, administers or reports on the use of funds to external funding bodies. The resolution of all funding administration issues will be the responsibility of Toronto Council of Educators and the relevant funding body.

- As the trustee for TCE, the City will require that the TCE and its secretariat work with City staff to establish acceptable protocols for directing the disbursement of funds for TCE use consistent with the City's Trustee Agreement and funder requirements.
- As the trustee for TCE, the City's Social Development, Finance & Administration (SDFA) Division will provide basic in-kind office space for the TCE secretariat staff within SDFA's existing resources. However, TCE secretariat staff will be employees of a TCE-member institution and secretariat office expenses will be covered with TCE funds.
- The City will require TCE secretariat staff to sign all appropriate waivers of City liability prior to commencing work on City property.
- As the trustee for TCE, the City will designate a staff liaison to the TCE and its secretariat to facilitate connections to relevant City staff and programs serving marginalized youth.

The City of Toronto will neither incur direct costs nor receive payment from the TCE or TCE funders to function as the trustee for the Toronto Council of Educators.

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SIGNATURE

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