Clause embodied in Report No. 8 of the Policy and Finance Committee, as adopted by the Council of the City of Toronto at its meeting held on May 21, 22 and 23, 2002.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) HIV/AIDS Partnership with Botswana

(City Council on May 21, 22 and 23, 2002, adopted this Clause, without amendment.)

The Policy and Finance Committee recommends:

(I) the adoption of Recommendations Nos. (1), (2) and (4) embodied in the report (April 24, 2002) from the Chief Administrative Officer; and

(II) that on completion of this project, the Chief Administrative Officer be requested to evaluate the project and submit a report thereon to the Policy and Finance Committee.

The Policy and Finance Committee reports, for the information of Council, having concurred with the following Recommendation No. (3) embodied in the aforementioned report:

“(3) this report be forwarded to the Board of Health for information”.

The Policy and Finance Committee submits the following report (April 24, 2002) from the Chief Administrative Officer:

Purpose:

This report provides a brief overview of the findings of the February 2002, FCM needs assessment diagnostic mission to Botswana on HIV/AIDS and proposes that the City of Toronto enter into a municipal capacity building partnership through the FCM’s International Centre for Municipal Development (ICMD) Municipal Partnership Program (MPP). The goal of the proposed partnership is to increase the capacity of a particular municipality in Botswana to better address HIV/AIDS issues at the local government level.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no additional resources required for any divisional budgets for this initiative. The City of Toronto’s contribution will be in-kind through staff time for the City’s part of administration of the partnership, to participate in overseas technical exchanges, and to host technical exchanges for the partners in Toronto. Two technical exchanges typically occur within a one-year period - one in Canada and one overseas. All direct costs for travel, accommodation, and related expenses incurred by City staff would be provided by the FCM’s International Centre for
Municipal Development. Additional in-kind contributions may, however, be leveraged from other appropriate community organizations and institutions in Toronto.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that:

1. the City of Toronto enter into a partnership with a municipality in Botswana through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities International Centre for Municipal Development’s Municipal Partnership Program, with a view to increasing the capacity of that municipality and the municipal sector to address HIV/AIDS issues in Botswana;

2. subject to the satisfactory completion and outcome of the diagnostic mission, the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to enter into the necessary agreement to give effect to the partnership;

3. this report be forwarded to the Board of Health for information; and

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

**Background:**

In spring 2001, Stephen Lewis, United Nations Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa, gave an impassioned plea asking the citizens and institutions of Canada to help the people of Africa who are facing an enormous HIV/AIDS crisis. In particular, Mr. Lewis approached the President of the FCM to establish a partnership with a municipality in Botswana through the FCM International Centre for Municipal Development’s Municipal Partnership Program. This proposal emerged from an awareness of the positive contribution municipalities can make in promoting development and economic growth as well as addressing challenges such as HIV/AIDS, which threatens the very future of countries like Botswana. In February 2002, a senior staff person from Toronto Public Health accompanied an ICMD official to Botswana as part of a diagnostic mission. The purpose of the mission was to determine the scope of needs and the potential for an effective municipal partnership focussing on HIV/AIDS.

**Comments:**

The FCM Municipal Partnerships Program:

The FCM Municipal Partnerships Program (MPP) is a human resources development program that links Canadian municipalities with local governments in developing countries. The program provides opportunities for a range of municipal administrators, technicians, professionals and political leaders to increase their capacity to deal with common municipal development issues by sharing experience, working together and applying their knowledge in practical situations. The goal of municipal partnerships is to improve the quality of life and the local capacity to define and implement sustainable programs to meet their needs. The MPP is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
The partnership starts with a diagnostic mission in the overseas municipality. Three officials (one political representative, a senior administrator, and one technical expert) from the Canadian municipality participate in the first mission. Within 3 to 6 months following the diagnostic mission, a confirmation mission is held in the Canadian municipality. Similar to the first mission, the delegation travelling to Canada will consist of one political representative, a senior administrator and one technical expert. Detailed mission plans are drafted prior to any travel to ensure that both partners agree on the goals and objectives of the mission. Following completion of the initial missions, partners are required to prepare a joint proposal detailing the specific area(s) of cooperation, proposed activities, the expected results of the 2-year partnership, and the implementation plan based on ICMD’s municipal capacity building framework.

FCM covers the direct costs of travel, accommodation, food and incidentals for Canadians when travelling abroad and for overseas officials when traveling to Canada. The municipal contribution then is in kind, through staff time in administration and in planning and developing the partnership, the technical exchange itself and follow-up activities.

Overview of HIV/AIDS Situation in Botswana:

UNAIDS and the World Health Organization estimate that, world-wide, more than 37 million people are living with HIV/AIDS and 16,000 people are infected every day. The impact of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa is more severe than anywhere else in the world. Here, more than 13 million people have already died of AIDS and 26 million more are currently living with the virus. AIDS primarily kills people in their reproductive and productive years resulting in an unprecedented impact on human and economic development.

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Botswana is 38 percent. This means that out of one hundred adults, about 38 are living with HIV/AIDS. Botswana has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world. Most alarming is the increase in prevalence amongst youth who have an infection rate of 27 percent. Everyone in Botswana is therefore either infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. In addition, a large number of people in Botswana have TB which is the most virulent opportunistic infection affecting those who have HIV/AIDS. The epidemic is rampant in both cities and rural areas and the impact of this “silent” epidemic is now evident in every aspect of life. People are constantly attending funerals, caring for sick relatives or taking sick leaves themselves. Child-headed households are the largest growing demographic group.

The Botswana Government is demonstrating admirable leadership in confronting the HIV/AIDS challenge head on. The political will is strong and clear. There is a well-developed national HIV/AIDS strategy in place, which recognizes that HIV/AIDS is more than a health issue and requires a multi-sectoral approach, which emphasizes capacity building at all levels. The strategy involves all government ministries, municipalities, non-governmental organizations (NGO), development partners and the private sector.

FCM Botswana HIV/AIDS Municipal Partnership:

Municipalities in Botswana are responsible for primary health care and orphan care in addition to other traditional municipal responsibilities. This provides a wide scope for involvement in the HIV/AIDS arena.
It is recommended that the City of Toronto enter into a municipal partnership with a municipality in Botswana. The name of the participating overseas municipality will be confirmed during the first week of May and will be based on the findings of the February 2002, diagnostic mission and the written consent of the Mayor in the selected municipality.

A diagnostic mission to the overseas municipality is proposed for June 2002. A Member of Council, a senior administrator and a technical expert from the City of Toronto, and an ICMD project officer will travel to Botswana to meet with the partner municipality. The purpose of this mission is for partners to learn about the context of the partnership and to assess capacity building needs in the overseas municipality vis-a-vis its ability to address problems related to HIV/AIDS and to improve the quality of life for those that are affected and/or infected by the disease. At the end of the first mission, the partners will broadly define the potential goal, purpose, and overall results of the capacity building project the partner municipalities will implement together. It is recommended that, subject to the satisfactory completion and outcome of this diagnostic mission, the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to enter into the necessary agreement to give effect to the partnership.

Toronto Public Health (TPH) has extensive expertise in this field and would likely be a lead division for the City. In particular, Toronto Public Health skills and experience in sexual health education, health promotion, infection control, TB control, public health nursing, social marketing and overall project management could be effectively applied to assist in this humanitarian disaster. To this end, it is hoped that TPH could leverage additional resources and expertise from community partners and other organizations in Toronto. In addition, sharing some key learnings from the City of Toronto’s experience in developing and delivering services to diverse populations would be invaluable to our municipal partners in Botswana. It is likely that the initiatives will focus on children and youth, as this is the crucial population to reach in order to stem the catastrophic increase in prevalence rates.

Benefits to the City of Toronto:

Participation in the international Municipal Partnership Program will provide significant benefits to both the City of Toronto and the partner municipality in Botswana. It will enable the City of Toronto to take a leadership role in municipal development overseas and to work in collaboration with key community partners and institutions to promote awareness of the humanitarian disaster of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Such a partnership also serves to strengthen the skills of municipal employees and elected officials and provides opportunities to apply professional knowledge in situations significantly different from the usual work day. Through this experience, the participants will have numerous opportunities to address presenting problems in new and creative ways based on a shared experience and information exchange, and in a context of severe resource shortages.

The international program enables an expanded understanding of different models of municipal government and to determine what works and why. It promotes cross-cultural understanding, international networking and co-operation between participating municipalities. In particular, it will provide an opportunity for the City of Toronto to showcase Best Practices in addressing HIV/AIDS issues through innovative strategies and outreach to diverse communities. It will also provide an opportunity to leverage resources from other organizations and businesses through in
kind and resource contributions to partnership activities. Overall the partnership will provide an opportunity for the City of Toronto to play a leadership role in municipal development in Canada and overseas through targeted in-kind contributions of staff and elected officials.

Conclusions:

The proposed partnership and the benefits it will confer on the parties are consistent with the goals and objectives of the proposed policy framework for the City of Toronto’s international activities.

Participation in the FCM Municipal Partnerships Program will enable the City of Toronto to play a leadership role in municipal capacity building both in Canada and overseas while contributing to addressing the humanitarian catastrophe of HIV/AIDS in Botswana. Botswana has the highest HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the world at 38 percent and TB is the most virulent opportunistic infection affecting the population. All direct costs for the partnership through travel, accommodation and incidental expenses for staff and elected officials travelling to the participating municipality in Botswana will be covered by the International Centre for Municipal Development. The City of Toronto’s contribution will be in kind through staff time to administer and implement the partnership.

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The Policy and Finance Committee also submits the following communication (May 6, 2002) from Councillor Jack Layton, President, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM):

Canada has been given a unique opportunity to assist with the enormous HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa by the appointment of Stephen Lewis, a prominent Canadian, as special envoy on HIV/AIDS for the United Nations. The Board of Directors of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has offered to assist Mr. Lewis by establishing a partnership between Canadian municipalities and municipalities in Botswana. Toronto is ideally suited to be the first of many and to pilot this concept. The intent is to build the capacity of this municipality and the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) to address HIV/AIDS at the local level. This initiative is intended to be a model for other municipalities and municipal associations in Canada and internationally.

FCM has invited the City of Toronto to take the lead in this initiative. As President of FCM, and as a City Councillor greatly concerned by this crisis, I am hoping that Toronto City Council will agree to take the first step by endorsing this partnership. This will in turn establish a mechanism to leverage many other supporters from community organizations, institutions and the private sector that can assist hundreds of people. Just as Toronto took the lead in Canada in addressing
HIV/AIDS issues in Canada in the ‘80s, the City of Toronto, with the support of FCM, can demonstrate and enhance our expertise and provide assistance in this humanitarian crisis.

Councillor Doug Holyday, Etobicoke Centre, appeared before the Policy and Finance Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

(City Council on May 21, 22 and 23, 2002, had before it, during consideration of the foregoing Clause, the following communication (May 14, 2002) from the Secretary, Board of Health:

**Recommendation:**

The Board of Health endorses Recommendations Nos. (1), (2) and (4) contained in the report (April 24, 2002) from the Chief Administrative Officer.

**Background:**

The Board of Health at its meeting on May 13, 2002, had before it a communication (May 9, 2002) from the City Clerk, Policy and Finance Committee, forwarding, for information, a copy of a report (April 24, 2002) from the Chief Administrative Officer, entitled “Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) HIV/AIDS Partnership with Botswana”.)