



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

**Authority to extend an existing agreement with
Citizenship and Immigration Canada funding for Toronto
Newcomer Initiative**

Date:	February 10, 2011
To:	Budget Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority to extend an existing agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to receive funding for the Toronto Newcomer Initiative (TNI). The value of the contract for the extension is anticipated to be up to \$1,600,000. for the period covering April 1, 2011 to Mar 31, 2012. TNI has supported innovative pilot programming across four City divisions to provide additional supports to newcomers in accessing City and community based services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that Budget Committee:

1. Authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to enter into an extension of the original agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada for a total value of \$1,450,000 gross/zero net for the period April 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 and \$150,000 gross/zero net for the period January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012.
2. Increase the 2011 recommended Operating Budgets of the Social Development, Finance and Administration Division by \$450,000 gross/zero net, Parks Forestry and Recreation Division by \$450,000 gross/zero net, and Toronto Public Health by \$550,000 gross/zero net.

3. Authorize the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration to continue the administration and implementation of the Toronto Newcomer Initiative, including a total staff complement of six full-time equivalents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

TNI is fully funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. In April 2010, Council approved the Mayor and/or City Manager to receive funds of up to \$4,050,000 for this initiative.

The current value of the signed contract for the period May 1st, 2010 to Mar 31st, 2011 is \$3,551,065. Actual spending is projected to be less than \$1,750,000.

The additional \$1,600,000 for the period April 1, 2011 to March 12, 2012 will increase the total value of federal contribution towards TNI over the two contracts to a maximum of \$3,948,095. There is no net financial impact to the City's operating budget for the extension of the agreement as the Toronto Newcomer Initiative is fully funded by the Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). However the recommended operating budgets for Social Development, Finance and Administration, Parks Forestry and Recreation, and Toronto Public Health would be increased by \$1,450,000 gross/zero net in 2011 and \$150,000 gross/zero net in 2012 as detailed in the table below.

Division		Existing Contract			Contract Extension		
		FY 2010 (May 1 – Dec 31)	FY 2011 (Jan 1 – Mar 31)	Existing Positions	FY 2011 (Apr 1 – Dec 31)	FY 2012 (Jan 1 – Mar 31)	Continued Positions
1	Children's Services	\$233,333 gross (\$0 net)	\$100,000 gross (\$0 net)	0	\$0	\$0	0
2	Parks, Forestry and Recreation	\$1,012,445 gross (\$0 net)	\$433,905 gross (\$0 net)	2	\$450,000 gross (\$0 net)	\$0	2
3	Social Development, Finance and Administration	\$547,859 gross (\$0 net)	\$234,796 gross (\$0 net)	4	\$450,000 gross (\$0 net)	\$150,000 gross (\$0 net)	4
4	Toronto Public Health	\$692,109 gross (\$0 net)	\$296,618 gross (\$0 net)	0	\$550,000 gross (\$0 net)	\$0	0
Totals		\$2,485,746	\$1,065,319	6	\$1,450,000	\$150,000	6

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

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DECISION HISTORY

On February, 17, 2010, Council authorized the Mayor and/or City Manager to enter into agreements with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for a total value of up to \$4,050,000.00.

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/exbgrd/backgroundfile-27467.pdf>)

On March 31 and April 1, 2010, City Council adopted a report seeking authority for staff to receive and spend/allocate Citizenship and Immigration Canada funding for Services to Newcomers.

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-29368.pdf>)

On August 3, 2010, the Community Development and Recreation Committee received a staff report titled Update on Newcomer and Settlement Issues and Initiatives.

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2010/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-32953.pdf>)

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The common goal between the federal and provincial ministries of Citizenship and Immigration and the City of Toronto is for improved settlement outcomes for newcomers. This goal is guided by a number of intergovernmental agreements including the Canada-Ontario Immigration Agreement (COIA) and the Canada-Ontario-Toronto Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

In 2010, the City entered into a bilateral funding agreement with Citizenship and Immigration Canada with the objectives of increasing the accessibility of directly delivered City services and building the capacity of the City to participate in effective service system planning for newcomers.

COMMENTS

The extension of the funding agreement will provide sufficient time to maximize the benefits of TNI. Focus in the extension period will be on recreational programming for newcomers and on gaining a better understanding of the issues associated with family reunification. The extension will also allow the completion of ongoing research projects and the development of a City of Toronto Newcomer Strategy which will be submitted to Council in the fourth quarter of 2011. This strategy will include an evaluation of the City of Toronto Newcomer Initiative and provide recommendations to Council with respect to actions to improve both economic and social outcomes for Torontonians who are newcomers, including ways of improving their access to City services.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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