
Community Development and Recreation Committee

CD1.9		Adopted		Ward: All
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Citizenship and Immigration Funding Cuts to Toronto Agencies

City Council Decision

City Council on February 7 and 8, 2011, referred Item CD1.9, together with the following motions from Councillor Davis, to the Executive Committee for consideration:

Moved by Councillor Janet Davis:

- a. That City Council direct that a copy of this Item be forwarded to the Chair and Members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration for consideration as part of their deliberations on the matter, on February 8, 10 and 15, 2011.
- b. That City Council amend Recommendation 4 of the Community Development and Recreation Committee by adding the word "Federal" before the word "funding" so that it now reads as follows:
 4. City Council direct that the City Manager work with the agencies serving immigrants and other community groups, including the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, to restore Federal funding for the programs that have been defunded by the Federal Government.

City Council also requested the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to report to the Executive Committee, at such time as the Committee considers this Item, with statistics on the ratio of funds received by the cities of Vancouver and Montreal in comparison to Toronto.

Committee Recommendations

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommends that:

1. City Council declare its opposition to cuts in funding for settlement services in Toronto.

2. City Council request Mayor Ford to write Prime Minister Harper and Immigration Minister Jason Kenney and call on them to reverse the cuts to these settlement programs.
3. City Council request the City Manager to report to the next meeting of the Community Development and Recreation Committee on the impacts of these cuts on the immigrant-serving agencies; the effect on the supports to immigrants in Toronto; the areas of the City whose residents will be most affected by these cuts; and the adequacy of City Services in these areas to make up for the loss in these services.
4. City Council direct that the City Manager work with the agencies serving immigrants and other community groups, including the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants, to restore funding for the programs that have been defunded by the Federal Government.

Origin

(January 21, 2011) Letter from Councillor Janet Davis, Beaches-East York

Summary

I am writing to express my concern about the impacts of the recent and dramatic cuts to agencies serving immigrants in Toronto. The Federal government has cut nearly \$5 million in Citizenship and Immigration Canada funding to 14 agencies in Toronto.

The full scale of the impacts of these cuts are not yet clear, but these cuts will certainly reduce our City's capacity to support newcomers in finding work, housing, and accessing necessary services. It will make the work of building strong, inclusive communities in Toronto harder, and it will erode the strong network of community organizations who deliver essential services to residents across this City. These cuts will also mean that more people will rely on City services to meet their needs.

I therefore urge the Community Development and Recreation Committee to take action to address this important issue.

Background Information (Committee)

(January 20, 2011) Letter from Councillor Janet Davis on Citizenship and Immigration Funding Cuts to Toronto Agencies

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2011/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-35185.pdf>)

Communications (City Council)

(January 26, 2011) E-mail from Peter Clarke (CC.Main.CD1.9.1)

(February 4, 2011) Letter from The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, M.P., Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism (CC.New.CD1.9.2)

(February 7, 2011) E-mail from Sherman Griffith CC.New (CC.New.CD1.9.3)

(February 8, 2011) E-mail from Gerard Kennedy, M.P., Parkdale-High Park (CC.New.CD1.9.4)

