TORONTO Member Motion

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM22.15	ACTION			Ward:All

City of Toronto Support for the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly in Toronto July 16 to 20, 2012 - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Mayor Rob Ford

**** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.***
**** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.***
**** This Motion has been deemed urgent.***

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Mayor Rob Ford, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to work with the Assembly of First Nations to assist in the planning of the Annual General Assembly being held in Toronto this July, including how to facilitate events on City streets, in Parks and at venues owned by the City such as Fort York and the Sony Centre, and report back to City Council at its May 8 and 9, 2012 meeting.

Summary

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is the national representative organization of the First Nations in Canada. There are over 630 First Nation's communities in Canada. The AFN Secretariat is designed to present the views of the various First Nations through their leaders in areas such as: Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, Economic Development, Education, Languages and Literacy, Health, Housing, Social Development, Justice, Taxation, Land Claims, Environment, and a whole array of issues that are of common concern which arise from time to time.

The Annual General Assembly is hosted every year and a National Chief is elected every three years. This year, the Assembly and election will be hosted in Toronto July 16 to 20, 2012. The event is expected to attract 630 chiefs from across Canada and 5,000 delegates. The event will include a Memorial Service and Veterans Parade in recognition of the contribution of First Nations to the War of 1812, daily cultural celebrations and exhibits, the National Chiefs Dinner and a gala closing ceremony.

There is a strong business case to be made for the City's in kind support of the AFN's annual general meeting. The close to 5,000 delegates brought into the City will have a positive impact on the City's airlines, taxis, hotels, restaurants, convention centre, off-site social venues,

production companies, the aboriginal entertainment industry and more. For example, the AFN estimates the total delegate hotel spending as more than $1.6 million.

Beyond the significant economic contribution this will have to Toronto, support for the Assembly of First Nations as the national political body of Aboriginal people of Canada would be consistent with the Statement of Commitment to Aboriginal Communities in Toronto.

(Submitted to City Council on April 10, and 11, 2012, as MM22.15)