

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM37.10	ACTION			Ward:All
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### **The Eradication of Contraband Tobacco in the City of Toronto - by Councillor Gary Crawford, seconded by Councillor Raymond Cho**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

#### **Recommendations**

Councillor Gary Crawford, seconded by Councillor Raymond Cho, recommends that:

1. City Council write a letter to the Ontario Minister of Finance in support of the Ontario Government's 2012 and 2013 Budget commitments to eradicate contraband tobacco through the implementation of additional regulatory, enforcement and other provisions through amendments to the *Tobacco Tax Act*; particularly, in support of the following proposed measures:
  - a. increased fines for those convicted of offenses related to contraband tobacco;
  - b. more authority for law enforcement officials with respect to: forfeiture of items seized, and impounding of vehicles;
  - c. drawing on the best practices of other jurisdictions and working collaboratively with the federal government and other jurisdictions to enhance contraband tobacco control through joint enforcement efforts; and
  - d. strengthening provisions to improve the *Tobacco Tax Act* in meeting the government's commitments.
2. City Council encourage the Provincial Government to continue to strengthen its strategies to address the manufacture and supply of contraband tobacco and maintain its commitment to introduce amendments this fall to implement these measures.

#### **Summary**

Contraband tobacco has negative public consequences and impacts such as unrestricted youth access to tobacco products and an increase in criminal activity.

Contraband tobacco products are easily accessible in our community and small businesses are

sometimes forced to close because of the sale of contraband tobacco.

Small business in our community and government in general stand to benefit from the institution of tougher restrictions on contraband tobacco.

(Submitted to City Council on July 16 and 17, 2013 as MM37.10)

### **Background Information**

Member Motion MM37.10

Tobacco Tax Strategy (from 2013 Ontario Budget) and Tobacco Enforcement (from 2012 Ontario Budget)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-60133.pdf>

Contraband Tobacco - The Facts (Toronto)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-60134.pdf>

List of Ontario Municipalities that have passed motions

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-60216.pdf>