
City Council**Motion Without Notice**

MM39.28	ACTION			Ward:All
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Strengthening Toronto's Music Industry - Requesting the Federal Government to extend the Temporary Worker Fee exemptions for musicians - by Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** 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 by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council officially request the Federal Government to extend the Temporary Worker Fee exemptions for musicians to all venues, including bars, restaurants and coffee shops.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report to the Economic Development Committee on measures to dampen the negative effect these new fees assessed to small business offering live music is having on Toronto's music industry and what steps might be taken to offset these temporarily and an on an ongoing basis if the Federal Government of Canada fails to heed the City's request.

Summary

The Federal Government has brought in new fees as part of the Temporary Worker Program that threatens Toronto and all of Canada's music industry. These changes have exemptions for certain venues but specifically state the exempted musicians "must not perform in bars and restaurants."

Prior to the changes, the fee was:

- \$150 per band member
- capped at \$450,
- was a one-time fee for them to simply enter the country, which allowed various venues to subsidize and share the nominal cost or book them separately at no extra charge.

The new fees:

- are \$275 per musician and those travelling with the band (tour manager, sound person, guitar tech, etc.)
- are per venue
- have no cap
- are in addition to a \$150 fee per musician
- specifically target small businesses

Bars, restaurants and coffee shops are the incubators of the music industry. They are an integral and critical element of a city's music scene. Both the Canadian Independent Music Association and Music Canada have said these new fees will hurt the music industry in Canada.

Over 137,000 Canadians have signed an online petition requesting the federal government revert to the previous fee structure.

This Motion is urgent as the fees have already taken effect and the negative impact of the fees is already being felt as concerts are being cancelled.

(Submitted to City Council on October 8 and 9, 2013 as MM39.28)