

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM45.12	ACTION			Ward:All
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Poised for Growth: Developing a Food and Beverage Innovation Centre - by Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

Recommendations

Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to enter into discussions with the Executive Director of the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors to determine the feasibility of and viable approaches to the Alliance's recommendation to establish a Food and Beverage Innovation Centre, and report on the results of these discussions to the Economic Development Committee, such report to include the terms of reference for a Task Force to be populated by industry, academia and other stakeholders in order to pursue this development in Toronto.

Summary

Toronto's food and beverage cluster is of great importance to the region, and along with Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, is one of the largest food and beverage clusters on the continent. About 47.2 percent of Ontario's employment in the food and beverage sector was in Toronto CMA in 2010. The total annual sales in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) were estimated to be approximately \$17 billion or about 47 percent of Ontario's annual sales of \$35 billion in 2010.

In the Toronto CMA, there are approximately 995 food and beverage manufacturing establishments employing over 60,000 people (Sources: Canadian Business Patterns, Dec. 2012; and Labour Force Survey, 2012).

Within Ontario, Toronto dominates the provincial food industry with more than half of all the food processing in the province taking place within the Greater Toronto region. A recent white paper on the food and beverage processing industry in Ontario, produced by the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors, calls the sector "The New Engine of Ontario's Economy".

In its recent white paper the Alliance of Ontario Food Processors made, as its number one

recommendation to "Establish a Food and Beverage Innovation Centre dedicated to food and beverage processing, innovation, business development and incubation in order to drive a new level of processor competitiveness both domestically and globally." Since Toronto has been a provincial leader in food business incubation with the establishment of the Toronto Food Business Incubator pilot in 2007, industry is once again looking at Toronto to lead.

(Submitted to City Council on December 16 and 17, 2013 as MM45.12)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.12