



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

Restoration of Funding for Youth Employment Toronto Program

Date:	May 9, 2014
To:	Executive Committee
From:	City Council
Wards:	All Wards

City Council Decision

City Council on May 6, 7 and 8, 2014, referred Motion MM51.28 to the Executive Committee.

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to report to the Budget Committee on restoring funding for the Youth Employment Training Program utilizing surplus from the 1st Quarter operating variance to continue operations for 2014.
2. City Council request the City Manager to write to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development to strongly advocate for the restoration of this funding in 2015.

Summary

The Youth Employment Toronto is a job training program operated by Social Development, Finance and Administration. The program is delivered by six case workers, who work with youth aged 16-29 with physical disabilities, poor literacy, mental health challenges and histories of family conflict. Case workers are connected to dozens of partner agencies and work with clients to develop stabilization plans, pre-employment training, and ultimately steady employment. The program served almost 1,800 youth in 2013, with 255 finding steady employment and an additional 111 returning to school. The program has operated for almost 30 years.

Approximately 85 percent of the program has been funded by a Federal grant from the Ministry of Human Resources and Skills Development, with the City paying for the remainder. The federal portion of funding has not been renewed for 2014, leaving a funding shortfall of approximately \$400,000.

With youth unemployment in Toronto a staggering 21.5 percent, action is needed now by the City and all levels of government to tackle the youth jobs crisis. Cutting youth employment programs at this time is not acceptable. While the City should not be forced to fund downloaded programs from higher orders of government, the lack of employment opportunity for youth in Toronto represents an exceptional circumstance which cannot be ignored.

(Submitted to City Council on May 6 and 7, 2014 as MM51.28)