

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM52.20	ACTION			Ward:28
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The 519 Sport and Recreation Project - Request to the Government of Canada to become funding partner - by Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

Recommendations

Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Norman Kelly, recommends that:

1. City Council request that the Government of Canada become a funding partner to help support the capital development costs of the new Community Sport and Recreation Centre, an initiative of The 519 Church Street Community Centre.

Summary

At its December 16, 2013 meeting, City Council authorized staff to develop an overall proposal for the 519 Sport and Recreation Project and enter into negotiations with Infrastructure Ontario to acquire the Wheel and Foundry site in the West Don Lands.

The 519 Church Street Community Centre, with the support of a major philanthropic donor, is proposing to build the first ever Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (LGBTQ)-focused sports and recreation centre in Toronto. This landmark recreation facility will establish an international best practice for LGBTQ engagement in recreation and offer a range of spaces for community activities and athletic programming. The proposed facility will also meet a service requirement for the West Don Lands community. The facility will be developed and governed by The 519 Church Street Community Centre, in keeping with their dual mandate of responding to the needs of the local community and communities of common bond.

The 519 Church Street Community Centre will leverage resources from a public sector-private foundation investment to meet this community facility need. The proposed community centre is estimated to cost \$100 million, with one third of those capital costs already guaranteed by a private donor who is working with The 519 Church Street Community Centre on an extensive capital campaign to raise the remaining funds. One third of the costs will be secured through other private donors, and a combined one third through municipal, provincial and federal government investment.

This Motion requests the Government of Canada to become a funding partner for this project. The new recreation centre will generate positive economic activity and contribute to Canada's long-term growth and prosperity, acting as a laboratory for research on best practices for developing inclusive sport and recreation programming. It will provide important community economic development and employment opportunities through training, internship and social enterprise business. The facility will provide a benefit that extends beyond Toronto, generating investment, tourism, sport hosting opportunities and international admiration.

The project is anticipated to become operational in 2017 subject to final City Council approval and successful Provincial negotiations. The new facility will be the first of its kind anywhere in the world, providing a welcoming, inclusive space for Torontonians, and particularly LGBTQ people to participate in sports. It would be a fitting legacy project to recognize Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, and to celebrate the role of diversity in contributing to Toronto's strength, and inclusion through sport as an essential element of our shared cultural identity.

(Submitted to City Council on June 10 and 11, 2014 as MM52.20)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM52.20